

16 Israelis hurt in Lebanon blast

BEIRUT (R) — Sixteen Israeli soldiers were wounded Friday when their bus hit a mine near the village of Kfar Mechki in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, an Israeli military spokesman said. He said all injuries were light. The spokesman did not say whether the mine was newly planted or was left over from previous battles. The Palestine news agency Wafa, in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, said the mine was planted by "Lebanese resistance fighters." The Israeli spokesman denied a Wafa report of an ambush on two Israeli patrols in the Bekaa Valley town of Rasbaya Al Wadi where Wafa said an officer and two soldiers were killed. Israel said Thursday a soldier was killed the previous night by small arms fire coming from behind Syrian lines in the Bekaa.

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Israel exiles PLO leader

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli authorities in the occupied Gaza Strip have ordered a founder member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to be banished from his home and confined to a small village, military sources said Thursday. They said Abdul Aziz Shahin, who was in the PLO's first cell with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, was told to leave his home in Rafah to live in Dahanah, near the Egyptian border.

India voices concern over Mideast tension

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Friday voiced concern over growing tension in the Middle East in talks here with the Soviet Union's First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov. A government spokesman quoted Mr. Rao as saying there was "an imminent danger to peace in the region."

Israel ready to ship arms to Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Israel's envoy to Central America said Thursday his country would probably ship arms to Honduras in the event of an emergency. Envoy Moshe Dayan told reporters: "We would be in the best frame of mind to supply them (arms) if Honduras faced an emergency."

Spiljak assumes Bulgarian presidency

BELGRADE (R) — Mika Spiljak Friday became president of Yugoslavia in succession to Petar Stambolic, who ended his one-year term as head of the country's nine-man collective state presidency. At the same time Vidoje Zarkovic became vice-president for the next 12 months. He will take over as president next year under the system by which the office rotates annually.

Defferre to visit Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — French Interior Minister Gaston Defferre will arrive in Riyadh Saturday for a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Press Agency said Friday.

U.N. team to inspect Gulf war damage

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the assent of the Security Council, announced Thursday that he will dispatch next week a U.N. mission to inspect war damage in Iran and Iraq.

Coalminers kick, punch director

GLASGOW (R) — Miners kicked and punched a top official in Britain's state-owned coal industry Friday after he announced the closure of their pit, police said. Some 200 men surged forward as Albert Wheeler, director of the National Coal Board in Scotland, left Cardowan colliery in Glasgow. Miners were thrown and Mr. Wheeler was crushed against his car but was not hurt, police said.

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Lebanon pact near completion despite tough Syrian resistance

NETANYA (R) — Negotiations on an Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanon neared completion Friday even though a firm Syrian rejection set back hopes of putting the draft agreement into effect.

Lebanese, Israeli and American delegation met for more than four hours to put the final touches on the agreement, which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz worked out last week. Israeli officials said there were still translation details to be sorted out and negotiators would meet here again on Sunday before the agreement was signed, probably next week. While the talks continued Friday in a 14-story hotel overlooking the Mediterranean, Syria toughened its opposition to the agreement.

Assad talks tough

In Damascus, President Hafez Al Assad attacked the U.S.-drafted deal saying it would make Lebanon a protectorate of Israel. But Mr. Assad's tough criticism differed from an earlier statement by his foreign minister in that he said Syria did not agree with the draft without using the word "rejection."

Diplomats in Beirut said it was difficult to know how much to read into the nuance. It was possible Mr. Assad had made the distinction to avoid being labelled a "rejectionist" or to leave the door fractionally ajar for negotiating changes in the draft, they said. But for the semantic difference, Mr. Assad's attack on the U.S.-Lebanese-Israeli accord was as tough as that made by Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam earlier and more detailed. A presidential palace spokesman quoted Mr. Assad as say-

ing the accord, expected to be signed soon, is "a flagrant departure from the Arab League Charter and Arab summit resolutions. It moves Lebanon away from its Arab stand and makes her an Israeli protectorate."

Mr. Assad said that his talks here Friday with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem, who brought a copy of the draft Syria to study, had shown that "the draft agreement was imposed on Lebanon by the United States and Israel and constitutes a prize to Israel for its invasion of Lebanon."

Mr. Assad said that under the agreement Israeli "military centres" would be set up in Lebanon, including areas close to Syrian territory, according to the spokesman.

"Syria does not agree at all to this draft agreement and hopes the responsible Lebanese officials... are not driven into a serious slide, with Israel becoming an ally of Lebanon," the spokesman quoted Mr. Assad as saying.

Earlier Friday, as U.S., Israeli and Lebanese negotiators met to put the finishing touches to the agreement, Foreign Minister Khaddam commenting on the draft said: "It is bad. We have rejected it in form and substance." He was speaking after talks with Mr. Assad.

The diplomats in Beirut pointed out that the semantic difference in Arabic between "not agreeing" and "rejection" had been a key issue at a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers in February.

Discussing U.S. President Reagan's Middle East peace plan, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions at the meeting spent days deciding on which word to use before compromising on "refusing to accept" the plan. Although the agreement negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz after an intensive shuttle mission is between the United States, Israel and Lebanon, Syria has an effective veto on its implementation.

This is because Israel has insisted on a "side-paper" with the accord, in which it states it will only withdraw its men if Syria and its PLO allies do the same. But Syria has countered by consistently stating that it will only pull out if Israel does.

Although some Syrian statements have been ambiguous on the timing of withdrawals, others have specifically stated that Syria will only move once every Israeli soldier has left Lebanon. In Washington Friday the White House said it would continue to urge Syria to withdraw despite its rejection of the agreement.

According to U.S. estimates, around 25,000 Israeli troops are still in Lebanon after the invasion almost a year ago.

There are upwards of 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. They were deployed in 1976 at the request of the Arab League to help moves to end Lebanon's civil war. Some of the estimated 6,000-8,000 Palestinian fighters in Lebanon were already in the north or the Eastern Bekaa Valley before last June's Israeli invasion while others retreated there from Beirut during the fighting.

The Palestinians are believed to include a number of PLO men who have filtered back into Lebanon through Syria after being evacuated to other countries when the Israelis took west Beirut.

In demanding Israeli withdrawal, Syria says the Israelis are an occupying force while its own troops were invited.

The Lebanese cabinet had been widely expected to approve the draft at a special session Thursday night but broke off its meeting to await the outcome of Mr. Salem's Damascus talks.

Arafat in Syria

While attention was focussed on Mr. Salem's talks in Damascus, Palestinian sources reported that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had arrived in the Syrian capital from Tunis Friday to chair various meetings of his own Fatah commando group and other PLO chiefs.

Mr. Arafat met Mr. Assad in Damascus earlier this month for the first time since last September. Their reconciliation was seen as partly due to tension in eastern Lebanon where Syrian and PLO forces are face to face with the Israelis.

Jumblatt voices rejection

Walid Jumblatt, leftist leader of Lebanon's minority Druze sect, was quoted here Friday as sharply criticising the draft agreement.

"The accord, which Washington is imposing on Lebanon, gives the Israeli security, political and economic concessions which would jeopardise Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and Arab affiliation," Mr. Jumblatt was quoted as saying by the official Syrian news agency SANA.

SANA said he made the comments after two days of talks with Syrian officials.

Mr. Jumblatt, leader of the Druze and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, labelled the draft accord unjustified, SANA said.

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan wins MX vote

WASHINGTON (R) — For second time in two days, a congressional committee has approved funds sought by President Reagan for flight testing the controversial MX missile.

Both votes came after committee members obtained a written pledge from saying he would back an arms reduction plan under which the U.S. and Soviet Union would destroy old missiles as they added new ones to their nuclear arsenals.

On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted 17-11 to release \$560 million for testing and development of the multiple-warhead MX, frozen by Congress last year.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives Defence Appropriations Subcommittee also approved release of the funds. Release of the funds must still be approved by both the Senate and House of Representatives. Money to build the missiles must be approved separately.

MX supporters said the missile should be approved to strengthen Mr. Reagan's hand in arms negotiations with Moscow. Opponents said it was too expensive and could not survive a Soviet attack.

"We've got to act," Mississippi Democrat John Stennis said in voting for the funds.

Weinberger: Soviets heighten tension

NEW YORK (R) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Friday that increased Soviet military activity in Syria heightened the danger of war between Syria and Israel.

He said in a speech prepared for delivery to a meeting of the American Jewish Committee that the Soviet build-up made more difficult the effort to achieve the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

"The Soviets have installed SAM-5s (surface-to-air missiles) that cover Israeli airspace, they have literally flooded Syria with new arms, and they have issued provocative statements disparaging U.S., Israeli, Lebanese efforts to bring peace and stability to Lebanon," he said.

Mr. Weinberger added that the

Soviets had "troops units" in Syria, not just advisers or trainers. U.S. officials said the units were not fighting units, but crews to man the SAM-5 batteries.

"This stepped up Soviet involvement in the region makes a solution to the crisis in Lebanon more difficult and heightens the danger of direct conflict between Syria and Israel," Mr. Weinberger said.

He called the Lebanese-Israeli accords arranged by Secretary of State George Shultz to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon, if Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces withdrew, major steps towards a Middle East peace.

So far, Syria has rejected the plan, but Mr. Weinberger said, "I

hope Syria will soon see it is enormously to their advantage also to agree to withdraw their troops from Lebanon."

Mr. Shultz said on his return from the negotiations he was optimistic Syria would pull out its troops.

Mr. Weinberger also told the Jewish audience that press claims that he was anti-Israel were untrue. "I want to say, as forcefully as I can, that this is simply not true," he said.

The allegations stem from his past role as a senior official of Bechtel, a San Francisco-based engineering company with extensive business in the Arab World, and his push for arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries.

(Continued on page 3)

WHO raps Israel's 'aggressive policy'

GENEVA (R) — A committee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Thursday condemned Israel's "aggressive policy" and continuous shelling of Arab residential areas including refugee camps.

A resolution, adopted by 65 votes to 17 with 25 abstentions, also condemned Israel for its settlement policy in occupied territories.

Israel and the United States, as well as most Western countries,

voted against the resolution, which is expected to be approved by WHO's assembly next week.

The committee also asked the U.N. agency to follow up health conditions of hundreds of teenage Arab girls afflicted by an epidemic in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in March.

WHO experts failed to establish the specific cause for the illnesses. The U.S. Centre for Disease Control, which studied the cases, said

the epidemic was induced by anxiety.

Palestinian representative Fathi Arafat told the committee the experts had arrived too late on the scene to be able to detect poisoning.

Mr. Arafat, head of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, said nine Israeli soldiers had also fallen ill with the same symptoms. "This proves that the illness was not due to psychological stress," he added.

Former KGB agent reports Soviet buildup off Japan

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union has moved large numbers of troops to islands off north Japan as part of an operation aimed at forcing Tokyo to drop its demand for their return, according to former KGB agent Stanislav Levchenko.

Mr. Levchenko, who defected to the United States in 1979 after four years in Japan during which he posed as a journalist, spoke of the troop deployments during an interview in Washington with Tokyo's Fuji Television.

His comments were published in the Sankei daily Friday. Mr. Levchenko said the Soviet Union was conducting a long-term

operation aimed at creating a public climate in Japan in favour of dropping demands for the return of four Kurile islands occupied in 1945.

The Japanese Defence Ministry has said that about 10,000 Soviet troops are on three of the four islands.

Mr. Levchenko told the U.S. House of Representatives intelligence committee last December that the KGB had contacts with about 200 Japanese in the 1970s.

He named a number of people as agents in a recent article in an American magazine.

Political rivals clash in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 40 people were injured Friday as clashes broke out for the second day running in the North Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to local assembly elections on June 5. The Press Trust of India news agency said police used tear gas and batons to disperse supporters of rival political parties who clashed in the town of Charari-Sharif about 30 kilometres from the state capital Srinagar. One person was killed and more than 100 people were injured Thursday when supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party fought with members of the locally-ruling National Conference Party in several parts of the state, which borders Pakistan. There were 12 policemen among the injured Friday, the agency said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is seen off Thursday on his departure to the U.S. by His Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Mudar Badran (left), Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (to Mr. Badran's left), Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi (right), Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid (to Mr. Lawzi's right) and the American ambassador to Jordan, Richard Viets, look on (Petra photo)

Hassan off to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left Amman Thursday for the United States where he is scheduled to address the National Association of American Arabs (NAAA) on

behalf of His Majesty King Hussein.

The 11th conference of the NAAA, which opened Thursday,

(Continued on page 3)

Refugee leaders reaffirm rejection of identity cards

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leading dignitaries representing Palestinian refugees have reaffirmed their unequivocal rejection of the measure taken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) to replace their ration cards with identity cards, which the UNRWA has been implementing since the beginning of May.

Officials of the General Committee, for Refugees in Jordan said

the committee will begin an intensive campaign to explain its views to Jordanian officials and other concerned bodies, a spokesman on behalf of the committee said Saturday. The spokesman said that the committee will present its case to Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Hassan Ibrahim, as well as sending

(Continued on page 3)

Hussein meets Thatcher

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein called on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday for talks on the Middle East, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The King, who is on a private visit to Britain, had a working lunch with Foreign Secretary Francis Pym Thursday.

The talks between the King and Mrs. Thatcher focused on the situation in Lebanon and the chances of establishing peace in the area, Petra said.

They also made a general review of international affairs and bilateral relations, the agency said.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State at the Foreign Office Douglas Hurd.

Moroccan message expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The speaker of the Moroccan parliament, Al Dadi Ould Sidi Baba, is due in Amman Sunday for a short visit to Jordan with a message to His Majesty King Hussein from King Hassan II of Morocco. Al Rai newspaper reported Friday.

The paper said that the message deals with the latest developments in the Middle East area.

Iranian death toll rises from Iraqi missile attack

TEHRAN (R) — The death toll from Iraqi missile attacks on two western Iranian towns Thursday has risen to at least 26 with nearly 200 people injured, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Friday.

IRNA said the strike on Andimeshk killed 22 people and injured 120. A second attack on the nearby city of Dezful, target of repeated rocket attacks since the Gulf war started in 1980, killed at least four people and wounded 76, the agency added.

The agency did not give a breakdown of how many had been killed and injured in Dezful and it did not mention the number or type of missiles used in the attacks.

Iraqi communiques have said attacks on Iranian towns are retaliation for Iranian shelling of Iraqi civilian areas. The Iranians deny they have been bombarding civilians.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in a statement issued the day before the attack on Andimeshk, accused both sides in the 32-month-old war of "repeated violations of international humanitarian law," including execution of prisoners and indiscriminate bombardment of civilians.

Neither Iran nor Iraq have made any public comment on the Red Cross statement.

Japan asks Iraq to spare Iran's petrochemical plant

TOKYO (R) — Japan asked Iraq Friday not to bomb a massive Japanese-Iranian petrochemical complex at the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini which Iraq has pinpointed as a target for air attack.

Yoshio Hatano, director of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern Affairs Bureau, told Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Amin Al Jaff that attacking the 85 per cent completed project would harm Japan's national interests as Japan had invested so much in it.

The ambassador pledged he would convey the Japanese request to the Iraqi government, Foreign Ministry officials said. The Iraqi News Agency Thursday quoted an Iraqi spokesman in Baghdad as saying: "We advise Japan not to get involved in the

repair of Iran's petrochemical complex as long as the war continues...because this complex is a target for our air force and rockets."

"We will strike as soon as repair work starts," the spokesman said, adding that the safety of Japanese workers could not be guaranteed.

The Iraqi warning came after Iran's deputy oil minister for petrochemical affairs, Mostafa Taheri, began talks in Tokyo on Wednesday with a group of Japanese companies on the resumption of construction.

On Thursday a spokesman for the Mitsui-led consortium said in Tokyo the group was adhering to its policy of not resuming work on the complex while the Gulf war continues.

USSR urges agreement at European security talks

MADRID (R) — Igor Andropov, son of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, invoked the name of former U.S. President John Kennedy Friday in an appeal for agreement at the stalled East-West security conference here, delegates said.

"Ask not how the international situation can help the Madrid meeting but rather how the meeting can assist the international climate," Mr. Andropov said, intentionally rephrasing Mr. Kennedy's statement: "Ask not what your country can do for you but rather what you can do for your country."

Mr. Andropov, a member of the Soviet delegation here, called on all participants at the 35-nation conference which is reviewing and updating the 1975 Helsinki agreements on European security and cooperation, to use political will to bring the marathon meeting to a close.

He repeated Moscow's rejection of Western amendments to a draft concluding document that mainly cover human rights' undertakings and reiterated that possibilities for further negotiation at the Madrid meeting were practically exhausted.

FEATURES

Rich Japanese favour imported cars for prestige

By Ikuro Anai
Reuter

IWAKI, Japan — Japan sold the world 5.6 million vehicles last year, but in this northern Japanese city Mitsuo Okada profits from the prestige of foreign cars.

Okada Motor Company Limited, a 19-year-old family business with a staff of four, sells only three or four cars a year, mainly Mercedes-Benz from West Germany. The price of each would buy 15 to 20 sub-compact Japanese cars.

"My customers include doctors, nightclub owners and Yakuza (gangster) bosses who can readily afford to pay 15 million yen (\$64,000) for a four-door Mercedes," Okada said.

"They favour big imported cars for the sake of social status and a Yakuza boss wants to impress his

rivals," he said.

Most of the imported cars sold in Japan come from West Germany — Volkswagen, Mercedes and BMW in that order.

Imports from the United States slumped by half from 1981 to 1982, making up only 10 per cent of the 35,500 foreign cars shipped to Japan last year.

Okada blamed the sinking popularity of American cars on moves by troubled U.S. carmakers to copy Japanese cars. "My customers who don't care about fuel efficiency are disappointed that American cars are no longer American," he said.

Okada, who stopped importing American cars three years ago, said his customers used to buy them for their powerful engines.

"But you can guess their shock when their American cars were easily outpaced on the highway by

2,000 cc Japanese models," he said. "They couldn't tolerate it."

Okada said that Japanese small cars were superior in quality and performance to U.S. models.

But Kenji Kawai, spokesman for Ford Motor Company (Japan) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary in Tokyo of the second largest U.S. car maker, disagreed that quality was the reason for declining U.S. sales in Japan.

"The main factor is the foreign exchange rate," Kawai said, referring to the yen's steep depreciation against the dollar last year, which made American cars more expensive for Japanese buyers.

Okada has been highly critical of tight government quality restrictions on both domestic cars and imports.

He published a book last July attacking the Transport Ministry's

regulation that domestic-made cars undergo meticulous and costly mechanical inspections every two years.

Okada was the first person to lodge a complaint with the office of trade ombudsman, set up in January last year as part of government measures to give foreign manufacturers wider access to Japanese markets.

Okada complained that when he tried to take delivery on imported cars he had problems getting them cleared by customs officials. "They work on individual whims rather than from established standards," he said.

He said he protested to the Ombudsman after officials at Tokyo Airport refused to release two Mercedes until he had removed fire extinguishers and first-aid kits on the grounds that they, not the cars, did not meet local

standards.

To alleviate persistent criticism from the United States and the European Community over Japan's large trade surpluses with them, the government announced last month new measures designed to make its safety and operating standards more equitable for imported goods, including cars.

On cars, the government said legislation would be revised to simplify procedures for certifying that foreign-made cars met Japanese safety and operating standards.

Foreign manufacturers have complained that the current system is time consuming, costly and a major impediment to importing cars into Japan.

The new regulations will ease the present "type designation system" under which inspection of

each car of a model is not required if three samples and lengthy documentation have been approved.

Government officials said that under the proposed revisions the costs would be cut by requiring submission of only one sample car and simplified documents. The time taken to qualify for approval would be cut from about seven months to 10 weeks.

The Japan Automobile Importers' Association has welcomed the move, but said it was too early to tell what effect it would have on foreign car sales.

One association official, noting that foreign cars sell in Japan for about twice the price of their Japanese equivalents, said: "If their prices fell to around the levels of Japanese cars of the same type, customers would often choose the imported car."

Vibrations from Japan

By Roy Garner

TOKYO: "Body sound" could be the next consumer fad to sweep Japan. The first product on the scene was a stereo-equipped armchair, and now, newly arrived, is stereo-equipped clothing: "Sound-wear".

Audio makers, struggling in a now-saturated consumer market, have decided that it is no longer enough for us just to listen to music, we should also be able to "feel" it.

Pioneer was the first company to convert the concept into a consumer product with a reclining armchair called "Body-sonic," launched last August, which features stereo speakers inside the headrest and number of in-built voice-coil amplification devices designed to send vibrations produced by the music tingling right through the body.

The company is already selling over 1,000 of the devices each month in the form of customised car seats installed as extras in the new Honda "City" car.

Pioneer's latest product is even more of a novelty, however, but one which could produce more social discord than harmony. Launched on April 21 under the brand name "Sound Wear," it consists of a sleeveless ski-type jacket with water-resistant speakers built into the shoulders and wires feeding internally to a "Walkman" stereo set in one pocket and a "sound booster" in the other.

Having donned this sound wear, the user is offered the benefits of unobstructed movement, and the absence of headphones, while at the same time being able to listen to his, or her, favourite sounds.

The inventor of "Sound Wear," and manager of Pioneer's product planning department, Mr. Hiroshi

Soma, stressed that power output had been limited to a capacity of 0.76 watts, and a "mute" switch has been added to the amplifier unit to minimise irritation to others. An appeal to the user to be socially conscious is also to be added to the sales brochure.

Initially, Pioneer is to make 5,000 jackets per month, selling for 22,000 yen each. The amplifier costs 10,000 yen extra, but any of the numerous "Walkman" type portable stereo units can be plugged into the outfit, which will keep down overall costs to the user.

It will be marketed through motoring stores and sportswear shops. The company plans to boost production levels at an early state, and other makers are expected to join the field soon.

Soma pointed out that with sales of "Walkman" units currently at 5 million in Japan, the potential market was considerable. Of the 12 million total "Walkman" units made in Japan last year, 9.8 million were exported, reflecting the additional promise of a large export opportunity.

Soma claimed that a key to the enjoyment of the new jacket was the fact that sound escaping from the rear of the special disc-shaped speakers was conducted through the bones of the body, allowing one literally to "feel" the music. It is in this way, he says, that even motorcyclists (the main initial "target" customer) travelling at 80 kph, and wearing a helmet, will be able to hear the music clearly.

The idea of "noise which goes right through you" seems destined to acquire a new meaning in Japan this year.

— Financial Times news feature

Tokyo aims to control the country's loan sharks

By Ikuro Anai
Reuter

TOKYO (R) — The alarming consequences of a law allowing Japanese money lenders to charge up to 10.5 per cent annual interest on loans have prompted parliament to pass new legislation to deal with unscrupulous loan sharks.

According to a recent police survey, an average of 20 Japanese disappear from their neighbourhoods every day because they cannot pay their debts.

Another survey by the newspaper Asahi Shimbun found that on average two people commit suicide each day, sometimes in family suicide pacts, because of their indebtedness.

Despite the human tragedy poli-

iticians have been reluctant to revise the 30-year-old laws allowing such high charges and only now, after failing to vote on seven previous bills in the past decade, has Japan's parliament finally approved legislation to be enforced later this year.

The new law will lower the interest rate ceiling at first to 7.3 per cent and to 40 per cent in five years' time.

It gives the authorities power to suspend a money-lending business and forces the lenders, or Sarakins as they are known, to register before starting a business and to give details of loans.

At present almost anyone can set up a money lender and at the end of last year 209,000 had registered voluntarily although only half of them were believed to be active. Under the new law, convicts will not be allowed to go into

business for three years after completing their term.

The original law of 1954, which set the interest ceiling at 109.5 per cent, was introduced at a time when demand from individuals was low and commercial banks concentrated on lending to industry in the post-war reconstruction period.

But as living standards rose in the 1960s and early 1970s, money lenders proliferated to meet the rising demand for consumer finance.

Professor Shozo Ueda of Kansai University in Osaka, a recognised authority on the Sarakin industry, had estimated the money lenders were owed 3,000 billion yen (\$12.6 billion) at the end of 1981.

Left-wing opposition parties and the Japanese Bar Association have attacked the new law, im-

posed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, as lukewarm and ineffective in dealing with the debt tragedies.

The problems usually begin with the smaller Sarakin shops which take on the riskiest loans but charge the highest rates of interest and consequently have the highest default rate.

They use pressure, including threats of violence, to recover their money. A common tactic is repeated visits to the borrower's home with demands for repayment loud enough for neighbours to hear.

The new law tries to define and outlaw threats and pressure tactics and the larger and more responsible consumer finance companies are hoping it will drive the more disreputable loan sharks out of business.

A spokesman for Takefuji, the largest consumer finance company in Japan with outstanding loans of 300 billion yen (\$1.26 billion), said the new law would help "purify" the industry.

He said the interest ceiling of 7.3 per cent would force many Sarakin shops out of business.

The larger companies would set their maximum interest rate at 40 per cent as soon as the new law came into force, without waiting for the five-year period to elapse, the spokesman said.

Even at 40 per cent, the interest charged by Sarakin lenders is well above the 13.5 to 15 per cent charged by a major Japanese bank on personal loans, although these are confined to workers who received regular bi-annual bonuses from companies. Sanwa Bank introduced the

so-called "quick loan" last year with a ceiling of 500,000 yen (\$2,100), but no other banks have followed suit.

Professor Ueda has estimated that only about five million people or less than five per cent of the population use the services offered by Sarakin. But the business is highly lucrative.

Consumer finance is still relatively undeveloped in the Japanese financial system but an increasing number of credit card companies, backed by banks, and even supermarkets are joining Sarakin shops in the booming small loan market.

According to a survey by Takefuji, the share of Sarakin lenders in outstanding consumer finance jumped 56 per cent to 1,599 billion yen (\$6.7 billion) in fiscal 1982, which ended in March.

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مكتبة امين

HOME NEWS

Annual archaeology scholarship given by Italian government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian government will offer an annual scholarship for Jordanian students and researchers interested in deepening their knowledge in archaeology or related artistic fields, the Italian ambassador said Thursday.

Marquis Fabrizio Rossi Longhi said the scholarship is a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Fuad Attallah, the renowned advocate and the former president of the Archaeological Society in Amman, as a sign of strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

The choice of the successful candidates will be made by a special 10-member committee which has been set up for the purpose. The committee is chaired by His Excellency the Italian ambassador, and will comprise of the director general of antiquities at the Ministry of Tourism, the daughter and son of Mr. Attallah and a number of his friends.

The committee will either decide to grant a single eight-month fellowship or to divide the fellowship up into a maximum of four two-month grants.

The Fuad Attallah scholarship committee held its first meeting at the Italian ambassador's residence Thursday. In opening the meeting, Marquis Longhi gave a short speech in which he paid tribute to the late Mr. Attallah.

"We hope that the fellowship will encourage those who are interested in archaeology," he said. Furthermore, he expressed the hope that the fellowship will inspire more people to follow the example of Mr. Attallah who "succeeded in making his life and the lives of others more meaningful through his contributions to his society."

It is rather sad, he pointed out, that there are people who have great talent, but are not using these means to serve their society.

The late Mr. Attallah was a distinguished lawyer during the time of the British mandate. In 1949 he was appointed president of the Nablus and Jerusalem Courts. Later he returned to practicing law as an advocate until his death.

Senator Ahmad Al Khalil, a fellow advocate, who is also a member of the committee, told the Jordan Times that "Mr. Attallah was a prominent lawyer who was dedicated in the service of his country and his people."

"The late Mr. Attallah played an important role in enhancing relations between the people of Jordan and Italy," he added.

Swiss consul to give goodbye party

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swiss consul in Amman Max Wegmueller will give a farewell party Wednesday, to mark the end of his assignment in Jordan and his transfer to another post, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Thursday.

Mr. Wegmueller has served as first secretary and consul in Jordan for the last five years. During his term, he was active in developing commercial and cultural relations between Jordan and Switzerland.

Bank approves loans for school building

IRBID (Petra) — The Development Bank for Municipalities and Villages (DBMV) has approved a JD 10,000 loan to the Ajlun municipality to construct a reservoir. It also approved a JD 12,000 loan to the Hour village council, a JD 18,000 loan to the Fo'ura village council, and a JD 16,000 loan to the Habka village council in the Irbid Governorate to cover the cost of constructing school buildings in these villages.



Her Highness Princess Basma receives a bouquet after delivering an address to a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association at the Palace of Culture which she patronised as the associations honorary chairperson (Petra photo)

Club to help with employment for women in Jordan Valley

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Club for Business and Professional Women Thursday toured various areas of the Jordan Valley aiming to familiarise itself with the conditions of working women there.

The club's members met 15 women representing the various professional sectors working in different parts of the Jordan Valley, and discussed the possibility of establishing a number of projects. The projects discussed aim at securing an income for many of the women resident there, as well as a way for them productivity to pass the time.

The club's President, Mrs. Hind Abdul Jabbar, suggested many such ideas which could be implemented in cooperation with working women and cooperative societies in the Jordan Valley. Projects proposed included the reviving of the local heritage through the encouragement of handicrafts and the marketing of seasonal agricultural products.

The women from the Jordan Valley showed their willingness to take part in such ventures, and were particularly enthusiastic about developing embroidery, weaving and carpet-making as well as activity in the food industry.

Mrs. Abdul Jabbar pointed out that the Jordan Valley visit is part of the club's plans to support the working woman wherever she lives "and to fulfil her needs in all possible ways."

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the club would prepare a comprehensive study on the subject discussed, and in due course would present it to the working women in the Jordan Valley enabling them to embark upon the project.

During the one-day visit of the club to the Jordan Valley, they were acquainted with problems related specifically to rural women, and in particular their work.

"The club members now know

that women in the area show a great understanding, a strong will and a sincere desire to improve their livelihood and other conditions," Mr. Abdul Jabbar said.

The club, has drawn up a working plan including activities aimed at "providing incentives and encouraging Jordanian women to perform community related duties, as well as to utilize their professional and intellectual capabilities both for constructive work and continued endeavours to raise their educational and professional standards," she stressed.

Mrs. Abdul Jabbar said that the club will participate in the international conference for the Association of Women's Professional and Business Clubs to be held in Washington from July 31 to Aug. 5.

The club, she pointed out, is currently preparing a study on "women's contribution in the development of industrial, commercial and agricultural activity, and the conditions of working women and the impact of professional women on the economy of Jordan."

The study, which is being prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, will be submitted to the Women's Centre in the U.S.A. who will forward it as a regional study to the third international conference for women to be held in Nairobi in 1985.

Economists elect new managing board

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Jordanian Economists Association (JEA) Thursday elected a new managing board for the next two years. Hashem Al Dabbas was elected president, Ismail Al Armouli vice-president, Usameh Al Azab secretary general, and Mazin Al Nasir as its next treasurer. Ahmad Qasem, Asem Al Hindawi and Hanna Hattar were elected to serve as ordinary members.

Zaben: Jordan suffering from shortage of nurses

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Basma said Thursday that the rise in the standards of health in the country and the drop in the rate of infant mortality reflects the great effort being made by the country's health workers.

Princess Basma was addressing a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association (JNMA), which she patronised in her capacity as honorary chairperson of the JNMA, at the Palace of Culture at the Hussein Youth City.

Princess Basma asserted that nursing is a mission rather than a profession, based on a belief in noble, humanitarian goals. She also said that World Nursing Day, which Jordan is currently celebrating, should become an annual occasion in which nurses are

honoured, and which should act as an example to encourage young men and women to join this worthy mission.

Earlier, Acting Health Minister Mohammad Addouh Al Zaben made a speech asserting that Jordanian nurses have continually proved their level of efficiency and have won the respect and appreciation of everyone mainly because nursing involves difficult work requiring a continuous sacrifice.

Dr. Zaben said Jordan is still suffering from an acute shortage

of nurses and that the number of nurses is as low as 1,305 while the number of midwives in the country stands at just 273.

The government has tackled the problem by opening nursing schools, and the Education Minister has introduced nursing in to secondary schools enabling students to graduate with a nursing certificate, he said. There are three nursing schools in the country which turn out 150 nurses every year and the government is providing incentives for young men and women to join the profession, he added.

Among these incentives are the increasing of salaries, the provision of appropriate housing, an increase in the ratio of nurses to patients, and scholarships enabling them to study both at home and abroad, he said.



Her Highness Princess Basma Thursday presents an award to a nurse in recognition of her length of service at a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association (Petra photo)

Tal, Eager meet on improving UNICEF, ministry relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Sa'id Tal met here Thursday the regional director of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in Beirut Charles Eager. They discussed ways of developing cooperation between

the ministry and the UNICEF. Dr. Tal briefed the UNICEF official on the efforts being made by the ministry to promote improved economic and social conditions for students by fulfilling their basic social and health needs.

Mr. Eager asserted that the UNICEF is interested in studying the programme of the student affairs directorate at the Education Ministry to explore the possibility of cooperation between the UNICEF and the directorate.



Education Minister Sa'id Tal (left) Thursday meets the regional director of the United Nations Children Fund Charles Eager (Petra photo)

Security Directorate holds Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Directorate Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idri's patronised Thursday the directorate's celebrations marking Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj. Several speakers, including Awwaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, spoke in detail about the occasion and called on Muslims to return to the tolerant teachings of Islam in order to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

Other speakers included Ali Al



The Public Security Directorate Thursday celebrates the feast of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj (Petra photo)

Lebanon pact near completion

(Continued from page 1)

On his return to Beirut, Mr. Salem indicated that Syria's rejection would not affect Lebanon's plan to sign the agreement.

"While we know that Syria does not accept this agreement, we also know that Lebanese-Syrian relations are solid," he said.

"... President Assad raised several questions, some about the effect of the agreement on Lebanon and others about Lebanese-Syrian relations and Lebanese-Arab relations.

"Each agreement has interpretations. There is a Syrian interpretation, with which we differ."

Mr. Salem added: "This agreement ensures an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Neither Syria nor any other Arab state has suggested alternatives. We feel the benefit to Lebanon of an Israeli withdrawal outweighs the price."

Tuesday appeared to be the earliest date on which the agreement could be signed.

Israeli officials said Prime Minister Menachem Begin wanted the Knesset to vote on the agreement, even though the constitution did not stipulate parliamentary approval.

A vote is due on Monday and since the Labour opposition is

expected to abstain, approval seems almost certain.

The government approved the draft in principle last week but asked for clarifications on "security" arrangements. The Foreign Ministry said Thursday it had now received these.

The officials said the agreement would probably be signed at two ceremonies, one in the Israeli border township of Kiryat Shmona and one in Kbalde, south of Beirut. These were the principal venues for the negotiations.

In New York, former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said Syria is reluctant to leave Lebanon because it would lose a half billion dollars in "taxes" a year it levies on the bishish trade in the Bekaa Valley.

In an article in the New York Post, Mr. Sharon said: "I do not think the Syrians will voluntarily leave Lebanon. And if they do, they will not leave without making sure they leave behind some kind of controlling force."

"The little known reason for this is Syria's reluctance to give up its very rewarding stake in Lebanon's bishish trade. Syria's income from taxation of the Bekaa Valley hashish trade comes to half a billion dollars."

He criticised Mr. Shultz's peace plan for Lebanon as not being realistic, although he said that on paper "it is beautiful."

Labour wants Sharon recalled

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's opposition Labour Party Thursday called on the government to summon home hard-line cabinet minister Ariel Sharon for criticising Israeli policy during a visit to the United States.

A party statement said Mr. Sharon, the former defence minister, should be recalled immediately from a fund-raising tour for his criticism of the U.S. mediated Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Sharon said Israel had made "dangerous concessions" in making the accord, adding that it would not secure an end to the activities of Palestinian forces in Lebanon.

The Labour Party said that while it was conducting its opposition to the government at home, Mr. Sharon was "slandering" the decisions of his own ruling Likud coalition abroad.

"This shows the general anarchy in the government," the statement added.

Mr. Sharon, the architect of Israel's invasion of Lebanon last year, was stripped of his defence portfolio by an Israeli judicial inquiry into last September's Beirut massacre of Palestinian refugees. He is now a minister without portfolio.

Hassan off to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

has adopted as its theme "The U.S. and the Arab World: Partners for Peace."

The conference will include debates and seminars as well as speeches that will discuss Arab-American relations, the situation in Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian problem and the chances of peace in the Middle East.

More than 1,500 participants from the United States, including six congressmen and two state governors are attending the conference, apart from invited dignitaries.

The NAAA is considered as the

major Arab political lobby in the United States to promote Arab causes and rights.

Before the Crown Prince's departure from Amman, His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein, the King's eldest son, was sworn in as the Regent.

Prince Hassan was seen off at Amman Airport by Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Ibrahim Al Oatani, cabinet members and the American ambassador to Jordan, Richard Viets.

Refugees reject cards

(Continued from page 1)

memos to the United Nations secretary general, the UNRWA commissioner-general and the UNRWA representative in Jordan.

The committee also reaffirms the refugees' categorical refusal to receive the new identity cards and strongly denounces the UNRWA attempt to classify the refugees into different categories, because "such a classification is harmful to the Palestinian cause," the spokesman said.

Committee officials said that they will contact the refugees both in and outside their camps and urge them not to receive these cards, "because such an action by the UNRWA is a stab to the Palestinian cause, which is now passing through its most critical phase."

The committee again called on the UNRWA to immediately suspend such action, "so that it would not take part in the political onslaught unleashed by Israel and its supporters against the Palestinians."

Committee prepares for Palestinian Folklore Day celebration on July 1

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preparations are underway in Jordan and in 24 other countries to mark the Palestinian Folklore Day which will take place on July 1.

The announcement was made by the general secretary of the Palestinian Folklore Day Nimer Sarhan Thursday. Mr. Sarhan, who was speaking at a press conference at the Jordanian Writers Association office, pointed out the objectives of the committee in staging the cultural events in Jordan during the first three days of July.

The committee, he said, was founded in 1981 on the initiative of the Palestinian Folklore Encyclopedia in Amman, and with the support of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists in Beirut.

A proclamation was then issued by the committee announcing the first of July as the Palestinian Folklore Day. On that day, the proclamation stated, activities that project the Palestinian culture and heritage will be held.

The committee objectives,

however, go far beyond the organisation of cultural activities on Folklore Day. For the main aim of the committee is "the preservation and consolidation of the Palestinian cultural identity" and to defy and resist "the Zionist attempts to forge and falsify the Palestinian heritage."

Mr. Sarhan pointed out that there are 49 branches of the committee spread in 24 countries around the world.

Former prime minister Abdul Munim Rifai is the honorary chairman of the Jordanian committee which comprises 78 members.

Mr. Sarhan explained that the 49 branches collect documents and studies on the Palestinian heritage. He added that the committee branch in Leningrad has collected a series of studies that were made by the Russian Imperial Research Centre on the Arab cities of Jerusalem and Bir Shiba long before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. While the French branch of the committee intends to translate the Palestinian Folklore Encyclopedia, edited by Mr. Sarhan, into French.

Mr. Sarhan affirmed that the committee is "independent, and has no connection with any government on any political organisation".

Mrs. Mounia Samara, the public relation officer of the Jordanian committee, said that all work undertaken is based on personal initiative. Therefore she urged all concerned people to render more support for the committee.

One of the major obstacles faced by the committee, she admitted, is the lack of sufficient funding. "We depend solely on contributions and luckily there are many people who believe in the cause of the committee and so contribute with both their time and money. For this we are deeply appreciative," she said.

That does not mean however, Mrs. Samara added, that "further support and involvement by a greater number of people is needed."

The programme organised by the committee for July 1, includes a Palestinian costume and fashion show, seminars and debates on the Palestinian heritage, an evening of folk dancing and songs plus many other activities.

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor: **MOHAMMED AMAN**

Editor: **GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**

Managing Editor: **WALID KHOURI**

General Manager: **JOHN J. HAWATMEH**

Telephone: 0662, 0663, 0664, 0665, 0666, 0667, 0668, 0669, 0670, 0671, 0672, 0673, 0674, 0675, 0676, 0677, 0678, 0679, 0680, 0681, 0682, 0683, 0684, 0685, 0686, 0687, 0688, 0689, 0690, 0691, 0692, 0693, 0694, 0695, 0696, 0697, 0698, 0699, 0700, 0701, 0702, 0703, 0704, 0705, 0706, 0707, 0708, 0709, 0710, 0711, 0712, 0713, 0714, 0715, 0716, 0717, 0718, 0719, 0720, 0721, 0722, 0723, 0724, 0725, 0726, 0727, 0728, 0729, 0730, 0731, 0732, 0733, 0734, 0735, 0736, 0737, 0738, 0739, 0740, 0741, 0742, 0743, 0744, 0745, 0746, 0747, 0748, 0749, 0750, 0751, 0752, 0753, 0754, 0755, 0756, 0757, 0758, 0759, 0760, 0761, 0762, 0763, 0764, 0765, 0766, 0767, 0768, 0769, 0770, 0771, 0772, 0773, 0774, 0775, 0776, 0777, 0778, 0779, 0780, 0781, 0782, 0783, 0784, 0785, 0786, 0787, 0788, 0789, 0790, 0791, 0792, 0793, 0794, 0795, 0796, 0797, 0798, 0799, 0800, 0801, 0802, 0803, 0804, 0805, 0806, 0807, 0808, 0809, 0810, 0811, 0812, 0813, 0814, 0815, 0816, 0817, 0818, 0819, 0820, 0821, 0822, 0823, 0824, 0825, 0826, 0827, 0828, 0829, 0830, 0831, 0832, 0833, 0834, 0835, 0836, 0837, 0838, 0839, 0840, 0841, 0842, 0843, 0844, 0845, 0846, 0847, 0848, 0849, 0850, 0851, 0852, 0853, 0854, 0855, 0856, 0857, 0858, 0859, 0860, 0861, 0862, 0863, 0864, 0865, 0866, 0867, 0868, 0869, 0870, 0871, 0872, 0873, 0874, 0875, 0876, 0877, 0878, 0879, 0880, 0881, 0882, 0883, 0884, 0885, 0886, 0887, 0888, 0889, 0890, 0891, 0892, 0893, 0894, 0895, 0896, 0897, 0898, 0899, 0900, 0901, 0902, 0903, 0904, 0905, 0906, 0907, 0908, 0909, 0910, 0911, 0912, 0913, 0914, 0915, 0916, 0917, 0918, 0919, 0920, 0921, 0922, 0923, 0924, 0925, 0926, 0927, 0928, 0929, 0930, 0931, 0932, 0933, 0934, 0935, 0936, 0937, 0938, 0939, 0940, 0941, 0942, 0943, 0944, 0945, 0946, 0947, 0948, 0949, 0950, 0951, 0952, 0953, 0954, 0955, 0956, 0957, 0958, 0959, 0960, 0961, 0962, 0963, 0964, 0965, 0966, 0967, 0968, 0969, 0970, 0971, 0972, 0973, 0974, 0975, 0976, 0977, 0978, 0979, 0980, 0981, 0982, 0983, 0984, 0985, 0986, 0987, 0988, 0989, 0990, 0991, 0992, 0993, 0994, 0995, 0996, 0997, 0998, 0999, 1000.

What comes next?

THE debate in the Arab World about the acceptability of the agreement for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is one of the strangest things we have witnessed in a very long time. Some Arab parties say the agreement is the best that can be hoped for at the moment, and thus should be supported and quickly implemented to free Lebanon from direct Israeli occupation. Others counter that the accord is unacceptable because it provides for a residual Israeli presence in southern Lebanon which is seen as allowing Israel to enjoy a political gain that it did not secure in its invasion of Lebanon.

The options are all imperfect. If Israel withdraws according to the agreement, it will have added Lebanon to the list of Arab states that it has neutralised. If the withdrawal accord is not implemented because of Syrian or Palestinian refusal to go along with it, the strong possibility remains that Israel will simply withdraw to a line somewhere near Sidon, in south Lebanon, thereby dividing Lebanon into a series of zones under the control of assorted Lebanese factions as well as under Israel and the Syria-Palestinian forces.

Thus it seems that the Arabs have to pick the best of a bad selection of options. One important aspect of the withdrawal agreement that the United States secretary of state negotiated between Israel and Lebanon is whether or not it indicates a better American approach to mediation in the Middle East. If there is convincing proof that the American effort in formulating this agreement is the forerunner of similar efforts in the near future to moderate Israeli demands and spur a negotiating process based on mutual recognition by Palestinians and Israelis, then it would seem worth the risk to support this agreement to put the Lebanon issue behind us and get back to the more central issue of Palestinian-Israeli coexistence. To argue about the advantages that Israel gains from the withdrawal accord while Israel now occupies half of Lebanon seems a rather hollow argument. The more important issue remains whether this withdrawal agreement can lead to further fruitful negotiations.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arabs should back Lebanon

THE withdrawal accord on Lebanon is receiving its final touches, and it is expected to be signed Friday during the Israeli-Lebanese meeting in Natanya. The Syrian capital meanwhile has witnessed intensified contacts by Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem with Syrian officials aimed at creating a suitable climate for the implementation of the accord that calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

If the Lebanese minister succeeds in his task, this will leave Israel with no excuses for staying in Lebanon especially under the pretext that the Syrians are responsible for such a continuation. Israel, since U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Damascus, has tried to build up a propaganda campaign to the effect that Syria, should it occur, is responsible for the failure of the Shultz proposals, and that Syria is concentrating its troops in the Bekaa Valley.

Lebanon is at a critical stage in its history, and it is the duty of all Arabs to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity. This in turn will concentrate efforts on the central issue of the Palestinian people's rights. It is hoped that the overall national interests of the Arab Nation will be given priority by the Syrians over the machinations of the superpowers which continually try to assert their presence in the region. Lebanon should be backed to the hilt by the Arabs so that Israel may not continue to manipulate the time factor for its own interests.

Al Dustour: How to end the tragedy

THE Lebanese government seems certain to sign the accords reached through U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace efforts to engineer an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Yet, there is still some Arab opposition to the accords, particularly from Syria. In Natanya, Monday, the accords will be signed to then be referred to the Lebanese parliament for ratification.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem's visit to Damascus aims at softening the Syrian position towards the accord, especially given the negative consequences which it has had among which are the strengthening of the rejectionist attitude towards it in the Lebanese Parliament, and the increasing of tensions in the Shouf mountains and even in Beirut itself.

An Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will end part of the tragedy. The ending of the rest of the problems needs Arab support to convince Syria to help Lebanon regain its sovereignty and security. This needs perseverance on the side of the Lebanese government, a quality it has proved to be in possession of in abundance during the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. It remains for the Arabs, who had let Lebanon down in wartime, to fulfil their national duties in peacetime in its search for peace with both itself and its neighbours. A tortured Lebanon with sectional hostilities and chaos reigning will always be a source of tragedy in the Arab World, therefore the Arabs at least in part have a responsibility to make sure such tragedies do not return.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's systematic plan

ISRAEL has manipulated the U.S. peace efforts to arrive at an agreement on Lebanon which serves its annexationist aims on relation to the occupied Arab territories. No recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, Israel is using every available situation to realise its aim of usurping the Palestinian's land. An intensified drive for settlement building on the occupied territories has been pursued by the Israeli authorities, and threats against the Palestinians' existence and their Islamic heritage are increasing.

A real danger to the safety of the Aqsa Mosque is intensified through Israel's decision to permit settlers to enter the mosque and pray in its vicinity. Israel wants Palestine without the Palestinians, and waves of systematic terrorism against them are being launched day after day. Life for those under occupation is made unbearable with the aim of forcing them out of their national land. If tireless attempts are made by the Zionists to divert the public's attention from what Israel is doing on the occupied territories, it is those who are living under threat and are clinging heroically to their national soil that the world should look to for the real answers.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Roots of historical hatred is still alive

Franz Schurmann

Yesterday the wires carried news that fighting had once again broken out between Chinese and Vietnamese troops along their frontier. And for weeks now, the wires have been reporting the heavy Vietnamese offensive against Cambodian forces opposed to the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom-Penh. These events again remind us that deep historical hatred among people who have lived close to each other for years still remains the source of so many bloody conflicts in the world.

The deep historical hatred between Chinese and Vietnamese is well known in East Asia. That has puzzled many people from the West. They ask: Do not both peoples share a common culture and civilisation? The answer is substantially: Yes. Probably as

much as 90 per cent of the words in the Vietnamese language are of Chinese origin. Though now written in Latin letters, until a century ago or so, Vietnamese wrote in Chinese or used Chinese characters to express the 10 per cent of their words not of Chinese origin. Just like Chinese, Vietnamese are deeply affected by the great Confucian philosophy, perhaps more so than any other non-Chinese people of the Far East. Vietnam's father of his nation, Ho Chi Minh used classical Chinese to write poetry of great passion. Yet not only do the two governments hate each other, but hatreds go deep among the ordinary people.

The same is substantially true of the relationship between Vietnamese and Cambodians. Most Cambodians are terrified that the bloody Pol

Pot regime could return, yet this, apparently, has not erased as deep a loathing of the Vietnamese who now occupy their country. Here the cultural traditions are quite different. Cambodians are Buddhist, and their culture is deeply influenced by the great wave of Hindu civilisation that went east from India some two thousand years ago. Yet in life style, racially, and in other ways there are affinities between the two peoples. Many Vietnamese are as devoutly Buddhist as the Cambodians. Yet the hatreds are fierce, both between governments and peoples.

One can find similar kinds of hatreds throughout the world. Consider Yugoslavia, whence my father's ancestors came. Two peoples, Serb and Croat, speak identical languages, share similar cultures, though

differ in religion. Yet the hostility between them remains as great as it has been in the past, and many fear a revival of the terrible blood-letting between the two peoples that took place during World War II.

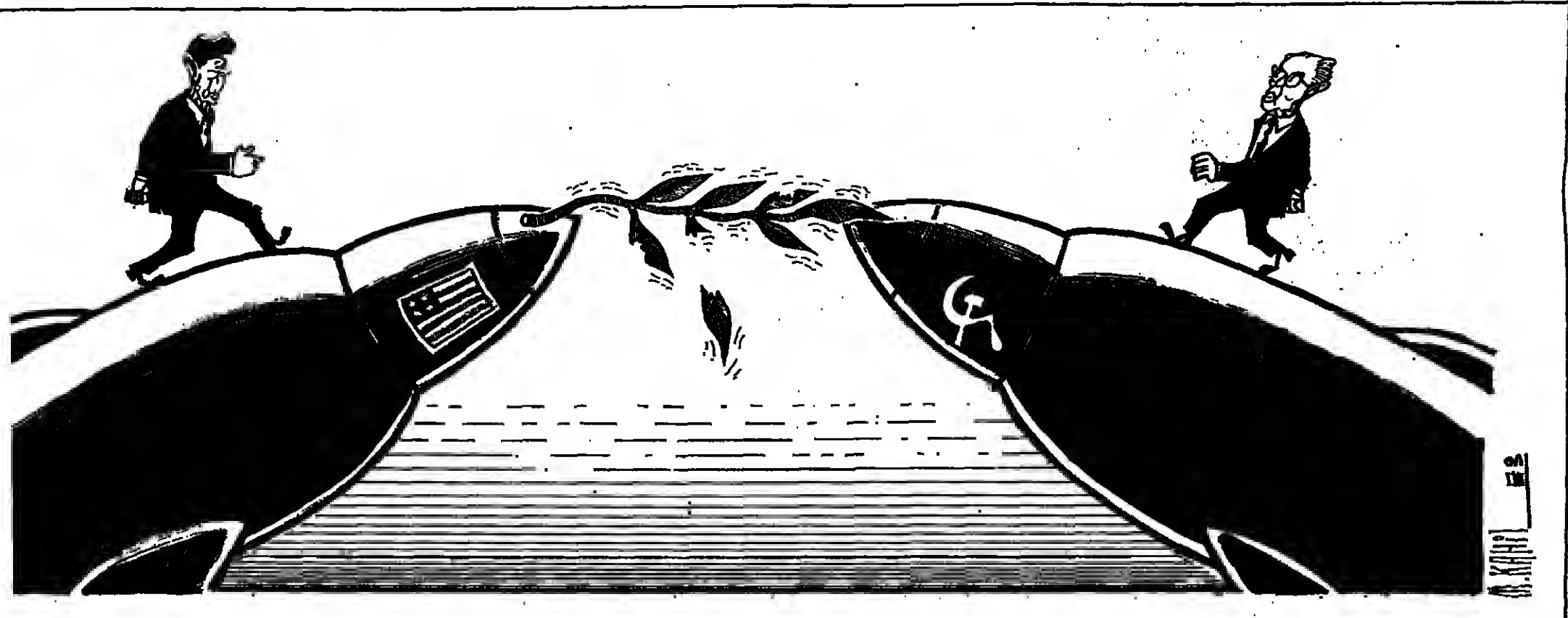
We might consider that some of the bloodiest wars in human history have been civil wars. And that is true of our own American Civil War (1861-1865) in which a half-million people were killed, the second bloodiest war in the 19th century after China's Taiping Rebellion which too was a massive civil war.

Why does brother hate brother with such a passion for blood that some of the greatest human tragedies in our history have resulted from that? Is it just the jealousy of a Cain for the favoured brother Abel? No, there would appear to be

more involved.

Reflection on human history suggests that almost always something much more than the human anger between Cain and Abel are involved. The words religion or ideology or doctrine come to mind. In European history, the bloodiest wars were actually called the "wars of religion" (France in the 1500's and Germany in the early 1600's). The war between Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia was a war of two religions, so to speak: one Nazism and the other Communism. Hitler, whose picture hung in all German homes like some saint, was manufactured into a god, just as Stalin whose picture too hung in Soviet homes. So too the Emperor of Japan who, like Hitler and Stalin, had been turned into a god by the Westero-style imperialism which Japan adopted.

But the wars and hatreds between Cambodians, Vietnamese, and Chinese now do not appear to involve religions, old ones or new ones or manufactured ones. Their hatreds seem more like those between the Germans and the French that gave rise to the terrible bloodletting of World War I (1914-1918), a war that left such a legacy of hatred that it spawned Nazism and Communism. Why did those two great peoples so hate each other then while today it all has vanished? Simple as it may sound, it came from a condition where one people refused to grant honour and respect to the other. Each regarded the other as some kind of inferior. That is quite the case with Cambodians, Vietnamese, Chinese. Is it also not the case with Arab Israelis and Persian Iranians in the Middle East?



Europe preparing to deploy U.S. missiles

By John Rogers

Reuter

LONDON — To a swelling chorus of dissent, Western Europe is preparing to deploy American missiles targeted at the Soviet Union from late this year.

Hopes that deployment of NATO's new nuclear weapons can still be averted — thus defusing domestic opposition — are pinned on U.S.-Soviet negotiations, which resume in Geneva next Tuesday, to limit medium-range missiles in Europe.

The talks, so far deadlocked, are working to a deadline of next December, when NATO is committed under a 1979 decision to start deploying up to 572 cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Agreement at Geneva on a total ban on land-based medium-range missiles, which would enable the alliance to drop its basing plan in return for Moscow scrapping its own missile arsenal, appears unattainable.

Deployment of at least some of the missiles is inevitable without major concessions which neither side has so far been ready to make, diplomats believe.

Deployment of the first 464 slow, low-flying cruise missiles will start in Britain in December while the first Pershings are being installed in West Germany, the only country for which this faster variant is earmarked.

Belgians, Dutch undecided

West Germany, Britain and Italy have taken firm decisions to deploy missiles if necessary, but Belgium and the Netherlands, while supporting the NATO policy, have delayed a final, formal stand until the outcome of the Geneva talks is known.

National politics, as well as the Geneva negotiations and the state of U.S.-Soviet relations, could affect the basing plans.

An upset in British general elections next month could produce a Labour government opposed to the NATO scheme. In the Netherlands, the coalition government faces problems in mustering a majority in favour of the missiles.

Anti-nuclear campaigns are gaining strength across Western Europe, and the nuclear debate is expected to intensify as the December deadline approaches.

Reuter correspondents assess

the preparations and problems this way:

— London: British officials say the first concrete missile shelter, equipped with 75-ton doors, should be ready next month at Greatham Common Base, 50 miles (80 kilometres) West of London, where the first 16 cruises will be installed in December.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party appears likely to win the June 9 general election and the government is confident it can deploy the cruises on schedule, the officials say.

No timetable has been disclosed for stationing the next flight of 16 missiles.

The opposition Labour Party is pledged to scrap all nuclear weapons and U.S. bases in Britain and will make the nuclear debate a major campaign issue.

Although most Britons favour the country's own independent nuclear deterrent force, opinion polls show a majority opposed to the cruises. Many are worried that Britain would not have adequate control of their use.

Greenham Common, site of a permanent women's "Peace camp", is the main target of demonstrations led by the fast-growing Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Thatcher, declaring the Conservatives "the true peace movement," has launched a gov-

ernment drive to counter the anti-nuclear campaign.

— Bonn: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is committed to deployment if the Geneva talks fail, and whether to go ahead will be considered in consultation with other NATO partners after the outcome of the negotiations is known.

The first Pershings are expected to be deployed in December unless a total ban is agreed, followed by cruises next year.

Opposition to the missiles could pose a major test for Kohl. The German Peace Union, linking hundreds of groups, plans a week of protests in October.

The union opposes any deployment, including President Reagan's proposed "interim solution" involving missile cuts by Moscow and Washington to an agreed ceiling.

Greens plan hunger strikes

If missiles are stationed, the anti-nuclear Greens Party plans hunger strikes and blockades of U.S. bases, although the government has not announced where the weapons will be located.

Opponents of the NATO scheme say West Germany is especially vulnerable because of its frontline position and Soviet concern about the Pershing, which Moscow sees as a first-strike weapon.

— Rome: Italy is firmly committed to deploying cruises at the Comiso Base in Sicily, depending on the outcome at Geneva, and the first missiles are due there next January.

A first contingent of 225 U.S. troops, of about 2,000 expected by the end of October, has arrived in Comiso.

Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo says Italy's acceptance of the NATO missiles stems from "a bitter but necessary choice" imposed by Soviet missile superiority.

The resignation of the centrist government last month will not mean any short-term policy change. But the Communist Party, opposed to deployment, will press the issue in the campaign for elections on June 26-27.

The anti-nuclear movement is planning a summer of protest in Sicily. Comiso's Socialist Mayor, Salvatore Catalano, hopes the missiles never arrive. "I keep trusting the Geneva talks will produce a positive result," he says.

— The Hague: Strong public opposition and political uncertainties make the Netherlands a doubtful starter for deployment of the missiles.

In the ruling coalition, the right-wing Liberals favour implementing the NATO plan. But the larger Christian Democrats have a vocal left-wing opposed to

the missiles.

Government chances of winning a parliamentary majority for siting the missiles will hinge on developments at Geneva and international manoeuvring surrounding the talks.

The government, with 81 seats in the 150-member parliament, could be forced to rely on small right-wing parties. But a majority obtained with such backing would be unreliable.

The cabinet formally toes the NATO line, but has avoided a final commitment. Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers has said failure of the Geneva talks will not automatically lead to deployment.

The government says cruise sites have not yet been chosen, and denies claims by the church-led peace movement that it is studying the southern air base of De Peel as a possible site.

— Brussels: While awaiting the outcome at Geneva, Belgium follows NATO policy — no missiles if the talks produce a ban, full deployment if there is no accord, and partial deployment, in consultation with allies, if there is a limited agreement.

NATO sources say the government is edging towards a "positive decision." Florennes Air Base, south of Brussels, is tipped as the probable site for the cruises, but deployment is not expected until 1985-86.

Levesque determined to push for Quebec's independence

By Paul Majendie

Reuter

MONTREAL — Rene Levesque, doggedly determined to fulfil his dream of an independent Quebec, feels he just has to convince the young and then a new country can be born.

Levesque, whose Parti Quebecois rose to power in 1976 with the goal of separating the province from federal Canada, has set his sights on the next provincial election as the time to put the big question to Quebec's 6.5 million people.

He tried once before, in 1980, when the predominantly Francophone Quebecois decided 60-40 in a referendum to reject his pro-independence formula of sovereignty association.

Undeterred, Levesque is now chasing 50 per cent support in the next election, due before 1986, and if he gets it, "that is a mandate to move as far as we are concerned," he said.

In an interview with Reuters on

his aspirations for an independent Quebec, he said: "Our basic support is there and hasn't moved much in either direction during the recession. The key to the next election is how the young people will move."

Pledging that the issue of Quebec's sovereignty would be the centrepiece next time he goes to the polls, he added: "We are starting to prepare for that election — it would be two, two and a half years from now."

But victory on the independence issue is going to be an uphill climb. Latest opinion polls show only 19 per cent of voters support the Parti Quebecois.

The problem, Levesque says, stems from a recent strike by civil servants, particularly teachers, who have in the past been among the most loyal Parti Quebecois supporters.

The strikers unsuccessfully battled with the provincial government over its plans to cut Quebec's burgeoning \$2.5 billion U.S. deficit with a 20 per cent cut in

public sector wages.

"Temporarily, we have lost quite a few supporters. That's for sure," said Levesque.

"That was the toughest year we have had. We had to break that strike and for the first time force the public sector, including the teachers, to accept no winning."

Plans to make independence the central issue in the next election have been dismissed by Levesque's arch foe, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, as "a waste of human energy."

"How much more intellectual and emotional energy will disappear into the cesspool of narrow nationalism?" Trudeau asked in a recent interview with the Montreal newspaper La Presse.

Certainly there is no love lost between Canada's two best known politicians. Levesque, a Quebecois like Trudeau, said: "I hate his political guts for what he has done."

Trudeau coterred politics in the 1960s to keep Quebec in Canada. Now, after 15 years in the premiership, his chief ministers are

Quebecois and the country is officially bilingual.

But Levesque argues that Trudeau, the committed federalist, "has been despicable in his attitude towards Quebec. He was elected to beat down Quebec, to bring her down to size. He has honoured that unwritten commitment with a vengeance."

For would-be investors, Levesque constantly paints a reassuring scenario of an independent Quebec which could boast a highly developed consumer society and impressive resources ranging from iron ore to hydro-electric power.

"We are practically the last... to get on the bandwagon of national independence," Levesque says.

"I remember in 1945 when the United Nations appeared, there were, I think, 45 to 50 authentic self-governing countries. There are now somewhere around 160."

Pointing to precedents, he said: "When Norway decided to get out from under Swedish rule at the beginning of the century, that was

done peacefully."

"In explosive Asia, the Chinese majority in Singapore wanted to break the link and get away from Malay domination."

Levesque, a former reporter who covered the Korean War and was the first Western journalist to interview Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, is clearly international in outlook with a special admiration for the United States.

"We have growing exchanges with the United States, especially our neighbours in New England. They don't buy because of our nice blue eyes. They buy because of things they require. We are one of the safest markets, small as we are," he said.

The Parti Quebecois, its eye on the future, has opened about 20 "delegations" abroad from Paris, Brussels and London to the United States, Latin America and Tokyo.

The diminutive Levesque, chain-smoking as always, throughout the interview, said the next offices would probably be

opened in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

What perhaps confuses outsiders most about Quebec is that its people vote for the Parti Quebecois in provincial elections but back the Liberals in federal elections, actually giving Pierre Trudeau his greatest power base.

The Parti Quebecois is now toying with the idea of running in federal elections.

Levesque argues that it would not be selling its principles down the river, saying: "The Irish went to the (British) parliament at Westminster which didn't make them less separatist."

But it is in the provincial elections that 60-year-old Levesque will stake all and it is the young that hold the key, he says.

"The party must try to understand what makes the young tick and what kind of future they are thinking about," he said. "It has to be in some place with more liberty, more leeway. In an independent state they would have greater horizons."

Are women writers still treated as a contradiction in terms?



Salwa
El Taher

"To write, or read, or think, or to inquire
Would cloud our beauty, and exhaust our time,
And interrupt the conquests of our prime,
Whilst the dull manage of a servile house
Is held by some our utmost art and use."

This verse, written by one Lady Winchelsea in 1661, was quoted by Virginia Woolf in 1929. But the amazing thing about it is that its content should still be debated in many parts of the world today. As recently as 1961, a visiting literary critic at Barnard University, USA, declared to his select audience: "Women can't be writers. They don't know about blood and guts and puking in the streets..."

It did not occur to any of the girls present to take up the speaker on this point. To explain to him, for instance, all about babies. Or to remind him of the "gutsiest" part of any war: picking up the pieces — whatever are left of them — after the heroes have gone. Yet among the audience was one Erica Mann — later Erica Jong. And, no matter how one

might personally feel about Jong's books, "Fear of Flying" and "How to Save Your Own Life" — breaking sales records over and over again — cannot be exactly accused of lacking guts. Ironically, the author — leaving little to be tested or tasted — has been branded, among worst things, as "shocking".

It is no great wonder, then, that there are so few women writers, especially in the more traditional societies. For the story of women writers is closely linked to that of the emancipation of women, except that it is a more difficult and arduous one. For, if women could picket together for the right to vote, writers have to work slowly, painfully, in isolation.

As late as the nineteenth century, they had to hide their ide-

ntity, to use male *noms de plume*. Charlotte Bronte was Currer Bell, Mary Ann Evans, George Eliot and Lucille Aureole Dupin became George Sand. That they were not suffering from paranoid delusions was proved by the fact that some of them had their work reviewed a second time once their identity — their sex — was revealed. George Eliot was all of a sudden criticised for "laying so much stress on the bodily feelings of the other sex".

As one writer puts it so well (Diana Gleasner in "Breakthrough: Women in Writing") "Women were torn by an internal tug of war. The definition of a woman was in conflict with the definition of a writer."

But there were also physical obstacles to overcome. Virginia Woolf, expounding in the first half of this century on the subject of women and fiction, exhorts women to fight for their own space. In "A Room of One's Own", it is literally their own

room and a certain income—£500 a year, she estimated, for the 1920s — that aspiring writers should strive for. How many women today have even that much? They are still very much what she called them: "the poor sex". A woman writer is often considered a woman-at-home; in other words, available. A man writer, on the other hand, is entitled to his splendid isolation.

And, even with a great deal of guts, a room (often a whole house) of their own, and more, women authors who have tried to lead a "normal" life (that is, who got married and had children) have discovered that they are walking a tightrope. Diana Gleasner gives us a glimpse of those "survivors", with a delightful, tongue-in-cheek humour.

"How does one handle the double demands and the pervasive guilt? With considerable difficulty. After interviewing Erica

Jong, I called home to find the orthodontist had tried unsuccessfully to reach us because our daughter was so traumatised by her new braces. My rationale — that our teenagers would develop character during our short absences — disintegrated. Surely, Steve was fine, sixteen, and blessed with straight teeth. The answer — 'Steve's moaning on the bathroom floor' — did not fall in the reassuring category. The combination of fasting to make weight for a wrestling match and running six miles had not agreed with him. My careful stocking of the refrigerator was for naught. My son would starve in my absence. Who did I think I was, trying to swing a career and a family? I understood. Erica Jong's statement: "Guilt is my constant companion."

We called our North Carolina home from Santa Fe, New Mexico, after interviewing Judy Blume. At 11 p.m., we got a recorded message. "Dear Mom and Dad, a shaky voice said, 'The pol-

ice are searching for an armed murderer in the area. Sue and I are staying with neighbours'. What kind of a mother was I? I had never thought to leave instructions for a murderer-loose-in-the-neighbourhood situation. I knew at some deep propitius level what Judy Blume meant when she spoke of the conflicts of work and family.

I did not mind that my interview with Erica Jong was interrupted so she could nurse her baby. I had left the oral defence of my thesis for my M.A. for the same reason.

It seemed entirely normal that my interview with Judy Blume was interrupted by (1) the Roto Rooter man (2) the plumber (3) the Roto Rooter man again (with the disappointing news that the situation was hopeless) (4) her son having lost her gasoline credit card (5) putting the roast in, (6) her husband home early to shop for snacks for an evening meeting (7) giving her daughter instructions for dinner preparations so we

wouldn't be interrupted.

When I ask a stranger at a cocktail party what he does for a living, he often returns the courtesy by asking what my husband does. Once I answered, "He's a photographer and I'm a writer," only to be asked if I wrote captions for his pictures.

But Gleasner knows better than to let a joke turn sour. The examples of successful women she provides are as varied as they can be: Erica Jong was a pampered, protected child; Erma Bombeck was raised in a poor, underprivileged community; Jessamyn West was so sick with tuberculosis she was admitted into a ward for terminal diseases; Phyllis Whitney lost both her parents and was alone in the world at 17. Yet they all made it, each in her own way, in her particular style. Another testimony to the indomitability of the spirit, a living homage to the marriage of will and work.

World recession and oil glut hit migrant workers

By John Rogers
Reuter

LONDON — The world recession and oil glut have cast shadows on the future of millions of job-hungry workers who flocked from poor countries to the oil states during the boom of the seventies.

Nigeria's expulsion in January of two million illegal workers from poorer West African countries was the most dramatic effect of a slump since last autumn in oil revenues on which producers were relying to fuel ambitious development programmes.

In Latin America, the migrant labour boom has stopped and hard times are changing migration patterns.

Asian countries which count on billions of dollars sent home by migrant labourers in the Middle East to swell hard currency reserves are anxiously studying future prospects.

Experts at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva say low-skilled construction workers are the most likely to be axed if the building boom that followed the oil price rises of the seventies is sharply curtailed, as happened in Nigeria.

The big Asian migrant population in the oil-rich Gulf states — more than three million workers and dependants from India, Pakistan, South Korea, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Thailand — could be hit if they are forced to cut or delay expansion.

So far, the oil glut has cast only a ripple over the tide of Asian migrants. But some experts think the Gulf states may have to cut immigration, as West European countries did when the impact of oil price rises hit their economies 10 years ago.

Third World diplomats in the Gulf say government and private employers are looking urgently for ways to cut costs, and foreign labour is likely to be one of the first casualties.

"We haven't seen any mass

exodus yet, but I think in the months ahead there will be a reduction in the foreign work force," an ambassador in Saudi Arabia said. But he added it was too early to predict the size of any cuts.

Unskilled Asians would bear the brunt, but highly-trained European and American experts would not escape, diplomats said.

The giant Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) has already announced it will prune some staff because Saudi oil output has dropped sharply.

The oil glut has prompted Saudi Arabia to announce a deficit budget for the new fiscal year. Qatar has cut spending by about 30 per cent and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is preparing an austerity programme.

However, Kuwait has announced plans to raise spending by four per cent next fiscal year after two deficit budgets.

Asian government experts are so far not anticipating a sharp reversal of the "brawn drain" of the seventies, which boosted the foreign work force in the Gulf to 30 per cent of the total.

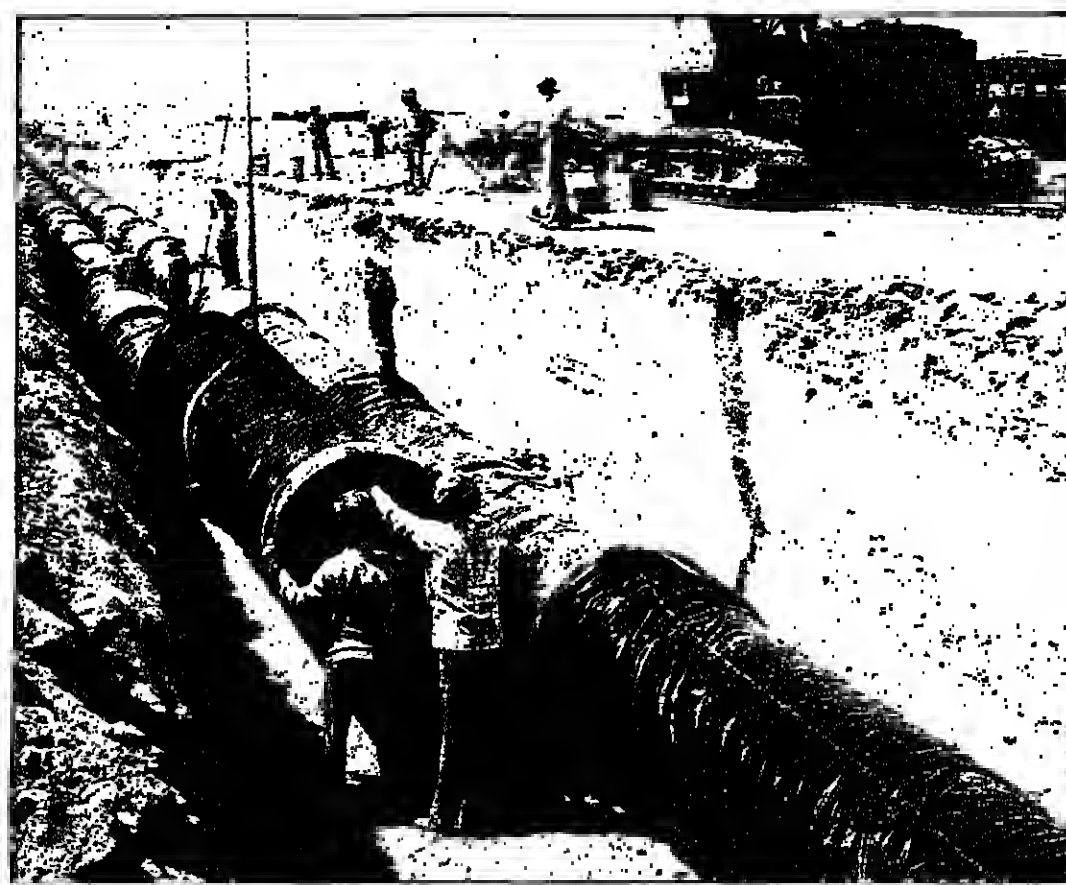
But some feel more competition is likely for jobs, the labour market may become more selective and more skilled workers — rather than manual labourers — may be required.

Pakistan, which has 1.5 million workers in the Middle East, has set up a committee to propose training programmes that would build up a pool of skilled workers.

An Indian government committee is examining how workers can be reassigned into the domestic labour force if there is a sudden influx of returning migrants from the Gulf.

Government economists in South Korea have revised projections of new Middle East construction contracts for the coming year down to \$6.9 billion from an original \$8 billion.

Industry sources in Seoul said there had been a 10 per cent cut in



Middle East construction projects, employing imported labour, are likely to be cut back

home at the end of contracts in Middle East recruitment so far this year.

Bangladesh, however, sees no immediate threat and manpower minister Air Vice-Marshal Aminul Islam said recently: "The depression in the Middle East has not affected us at all."

The Philippine labour minister, Blas Ople, flew to Saudi Arabia when the oil price crisis started and said his visit reassured Filipino workers.

He said Saudi leaders told him their current five-year development plan would not be affected as it was based on lower oil prices. But a few thousand Filipino workers would be going

to Oman, the UAE and Qatar. Turkish officials say the oil price slump has not started to bite into Turkish labour exports to the Middle East.

Highlighting one problem for migrant labourers, the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Committee on Migration (ICM) this month warned that the recession was forcing more people to break immigration rules in search of work.

This was contributing to a global upsurge in "irregular migration" which made foreign workers without proper papers vulnerable to discrimination and abuses, it said.

In recession-hit Western Eur-

ope, rising unemployment has increased resentment against foreign workers, themselves sharply affected by the economic crisis.

In France, whose socialist government has tightened immigration controls, the rate of unemployment among immigrants rose 79 per cent in the three years up to last September, compared to 44 per cent for French workers.

In West Germany, with 1.7 million Turks in a migrant labour force of 2.6 million, government attempts to curb foreign workers were postponed because of last month's general election. The coalition government is divided on the issue.

Saudi poet-minister talks of intellectual ferment

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

RUYADH — In an intellectual ferment after the shock of the collapse of Nasserism, the Arab World still gropes for new certainties, in the personal view of Saudi Arabian poet-bureaucrat Ghazi Alghosbi.

Saudi Industries Minister since 1975, U.S.-educated Alghosbi was among commoners promoted by the royal family to oversee the modernisation of the country's economy. King Fahd recently also gave him acting charge of the health portfolio.

He is also a poet whose works have been published in Arabic and English translation and a provocative commentator whose latest book, "Arabian Essays", is dedicated to "those who disagree".

In a Reuter interview, Alghosbi ranged over intellectual viewpoints in the Arab World, Arab views of the West, the character of the Saudi monarchy and the outlook for a rebirth of poetry — deemed gloomy among the Arabs as elsewhere.

"Intellectually the Arab World is taking stock and you will not find any single trend. The collapse of Nasserism was a traumatic experience and we have since had the failure of coup d'etat politics," said Alghosbi, 42.

After the radical pan-Arabist ideas of the late Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and several Arab coups, "we now witness the Iranian revolution. Glimmers were seen but it has so far not delivered. I personally hope the new trend will prove Islamic without being extremist or xenophobic. Islam is not just a system of flogging and cutting off hands," Alghosbi remarked.

"It is flexible. We have proved that strict allegiance to Islam is no

obstacle to the most dramatic modernisation programme ever witnessed. It is said Europe could not have had the industrial revolution without Protestantism. We did not need to de throne religion here."

Citing efforts by Arab jurists to agree on a unified Islamic code, Alghosbi said: "I do not think Arab governments are doing such things just to satisfy a passing whim."

Complexity

The Saudi official said Arabs who strongly rejected everything Western failed to grasp the West's complexity. There were U.S. sects that taught a flat earth, forbade surgical operations and condoned polygamy, he noted.

"Usually Western morals and sexual values are attacked. But I am sure some western girls are not wholly lax and some families stick together."

Yet Alghosbi denounced wholesale intellectual and cultural borrowing from the West by non-Westerners.

"In the Arab World of the 1930s and 1940s intellectuals slavishly borrowed from the West. They even invented a Mediterranean culture supposed to embrace Egypt and Lebanon."

"You cannot recreate the West's history, and where is all that copying now? Where is the 1923 Egyptian constitution they modelled on that of Belgium?"

Alghosbi was interviewed at the end of his daily "open hour" at the health ministry, where he rose courteously to greet each petitioner who sought his help.

One complained that a clinic was too far from his village. Ano-

ther sought help in obtaining Saudi nationality.

"Every political system in the end turns out to be just another way of responding to demands by allocating resources," Alghosbi commented. "There must be avenues to lobby, to short-circuit. In some countries few people would even dream of seeing a minister. Saudis can petition their king."

"But no Saudi has to kneel down and kiss the king's toe. It really is misleading to say we have an absolute monarchy."

The minister's new book includes a short story about a fictional big bureaucratic so well-protected by lesser ones that, when one day a newcomer takes up a job in his outer office, he himself is not allowed to go in to his desk. "Oh," Alghosbi laughed, "that was long ago. That was a particularly bad fellow."

Although a new book of his Arabic verse with his own English translation is due to be published soon, Alghosbi doubted whether the poet in any culture could look for wide recognition.

There is too much competition, he said, citing television and its stars.

"So Yeats was a famous 20th century poet? They might have recognised him in Ireland if he walked down the street. But they would recognise (tennis player) Bjorn Borg if he walked down a street in Riyadh. I do not think that there is anything in the West's experience to compare with the sovereign hold of poetry over the Arab mind of two or three hundred years ago. Even when I was a boy of 10 or 12 I really understood what a flower was from a page of poetry. My children look at videocassettes. Someone is supposed to have produced videocassette poetry — we will see what happens to it."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Cartoons
18:10 The Puffler Adventures
18:30 Famous Scientists
18:45 Adventures of Long John Silver
19:30 Health Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:40 Arabic Film
22:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 M.A.S.H.
21:00 Documentary: The French Way
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: The Apollo
Marlon Brando, Annette Bening

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & 95.60 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
10:00 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Picnic Time
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Special Feature
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Special Feature
18:30 Great Books of Islam
19:00 News Bulletin
19:30 Top Twenty
20:30 Date with a Star
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Classical Concert
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Film Spin
22:05 News Summary
23:00 Country Music
24:00 News Headlines, Sign Off

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Classic Alb-

ums 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:15 About Britain 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Album Time 08:50 World News 09:00 News about Britain 09:15 From the Weeklies 09:30 Classical Record Review 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Chanson 10:20 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Unify Letters 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 News in Action 12:15 World's Minute 12:30 Minute 13:00 World News 13:05 News About Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 Commentary 15:15 Network U.K. 15:30 Society Instrumental 16:00 Saturday Special 16:30 Arranged for the Piano 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 19:05 Saturday Special 19:05 Book Choice 19:15 The Magic of... 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:05 News About Britain 20:15 Private Lives 20:30 Uncle's Dream 21:45 The Classic Albums 22:00 World News 22:05 Commentary 22:15 Good Books 22:30 Ardently Loved 23:15 The Brotherhood of Brass 23:30 Wagner in London 24:00 World News 24:05 From Our Own Correspondent 00:10 News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 7205, 11925, 15205

05:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listener's Questions, Science Digest, News Summary at 30 minute past the hour. 17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 American Viewpoint 18:30 Press Conference USA 19:00 News 19:10 This Week 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News Weekend Survey of World News, Correspondent's Reports, Music, Cultural Events and Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoint 21:30 Press Conference USA

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

MAGIC SHOW

* German magician Fred Maro performs at the Hays Arts Centre at 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

* "Most Ancient Jordan: The Past Half Million Years" at the American Centre, 71331.
* "French Contributions to Jordanian Archaeology" at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 66102/67
American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 23409
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 65515
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 643555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries. A collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustazah, Jabal Leiwedeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lost Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphi Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club: Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle: Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Amman. Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabal Leiwedeh. 37400.
De la Saie Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Hussein. 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox). Abadi, 22541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Red-center). Jabal Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashrafieh, 71731.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): Meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsat, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

03:04 Fair
04:50 (Sawir) Shuruf
11:32 Dhulur
15:13 'Asr
18:27 Maghreb
18:57 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Air information department at Amman Airport, tel. 42205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:55 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:40 Ohahrn (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:50 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)
17:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
17:00 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 Rio de Janeiro (IA)
17:00 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:30 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:05 Rome (Alitalia)
18:10 Kuwait (KAC)
18:20 Athens (GA)
19:05 Cairo (EA)
19:40 Frankfurt (LH)
20:15 Beirut (MEA)
21:00 Cairo (RJ)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:30 Baghdad (EA)
01:45 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

04:45 Cairo (RJ)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:40 Beirut (RJ)
07:50 Cairo (EA)
09:05 Beirut (MEA)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:15 Geneva, Paris (GA)
11:30 Athens (GA)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
17:00 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
18:45 Beirut (RJ)
19:00 Kuwait (RJ)
19:00 Doha, Muscat (GA)
19:10 Kuwait (KAC)
19:30 Jeddah (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy, with scattered showers and a decrease in temperature is expected. Winds will be light and variable changing northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be hazy with the chances of scattered showers with northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low high temperature in deg. C.

Amman 12/22
Agaba 20/34
Oases 14/29
Jordan Valley 16/30

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 24, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent. Agaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 75121
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 220943
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 563941
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71123-8

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 81381-32
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amman 42421
Al-Khaldun Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malhas, J. Amman 36141
Palestine, Shamsat 664171-4
Shamsat Hospital 66131-7
University Hospital 845445
Omar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 607158
Al-Muhsen Hospital 66727-6
The Islamic, Abadi 665392
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664184
Italian, Al-Muhajreh 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Or. Nabil Mandy 38256

Salon pharmacy 36730

Kilani pharmacy 43694
Khamis pharmacy 664411
Safa pharmacy 664411

SPORTS

Prost says Monaco Grand Prix course getting faster

MONTE CARLO (R) — Faster times during a second qualifying session Saturday for the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix were forecast by Renault driver Alain Prost on Friday.

Frenchman Prost, 28, the quickest man in practice so far, said the 3.312-km road circuit through the town, along the shore of the Mediterranean and round the port is "the kind that improves daily."

He added: "Everyone will be going faster and I will have to fight to keep my pole position but I have no worries."

A fierce duel for the 41st Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday is shaping up between the turbocharged Renaults and Ferraris.

But confidence was also high in the non-turbo Williams team after last practice laps by Finnish World Champion Keke Rosberg and Jacques Laffite of France.

The drivers had a rest day Friday in preparation for Saturday's session in which the number of cars to start the race will be slimmed from 26 to 20.

Prost had a best practice time Thursday of one minute 24.84 seconds at an average speed of

140.53 kilometres per hour.

Compatriot and former Renault team mate Rene Arnoux, who clocked one minute 25.18 seconds in his red-liveried Ferrari, was close behind.

The personal rivalry between Prost, joint leader of the 1983 Driver's Championship, and Arnoux who is still seeking his first win this season, has been given extra edge by the closeness of their times.

Prost said with a smile: "My intention was to turn in the fastest time. The name of the driver behind neither adds to nor detracts from my satisfaction. It would have been the same if it had been Tambay or Rosberg or Laffite."

Arnoux, delighted with the performance of his car, was also confident of improving his time. He set the fastest lap in practice last year in one minute 23.28 seconds. The Renault of American Eddie Cheever and the Ferrari of Patrick Tambay of France were third and fourth in practice.

Laffite said the domination of the early practice by the turbo cars did not mean they would have things all their own way in the

race, the fifth of the season.

"Rosberg is already on the second rank of the grid and I intend to be up there with him on Sunday," he said. "If we can qualify just behind the turbos, we will be well placed to make life interesting for them."

The Williams cars have proved readily adaptable to the narrow Monaco circuit with its steep hills and tight corners.

The McLaren team duo of Britain's John Watson and Austrian Niki Lauda will be fighting for survival in the second practice session on Saturday. Neither has been fast enough yet to qualify. Lauda blamed traction problems for the slowness of his car, whose best time has been almost five seconds behind Prost's Renault with Watson slower still.

The McLarens were well down the field in practice for the U.S. Grand Prix at Long Beach on March 27, however, but performed brilliantly in the race which was won by Watson with Lauda second.

The teams will have 90 minutes of untimed practice before the second six-minute qualifying round.

Cup defeat completes Real's fall from grace

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Real Madrid, once the greatest footballing power in the world, are mere mortals after all.

The former European Champions from Spain were conclusively outplayed by Aberdeen in Wednesday night's European Cup Winners' Cup final in the Ulf evi stadium here and only some inspired goalkeeping by Agustin kept the score line down to 2-1 after extra time.

It was Real's 11th European final and surely their least distinguished. The six times Champions' Cup winners fell behind to a sixth minute goal from the excellent Eric Black, equalised from a Juanito penalty nine minutes later and were finally subdued when Aberdeen substitute John Hewitt, who had replaced the injured Black near the end of normal time, scored a thrilling winner in the 112th minute.

Although Black and Hewitt were the goal heroes the Man of the Match was little Gordon Strachan who controlled the game from midfield where he mesmerised the Real side with his intricate dribbling skills.

Strachan, who shot to prominence during the World Cup in Spain last summer, ignored the

torrential rain to treat the 17,000 crowd to an unforgettable exhibition.

Real, in contrast, had little to offer. Agustin had a fine match while West German Uli Stielike, who had not played since March 30 due to a leg injury, produced a good opening 45 minutes before his lack of match fitness became evident.

Manager Alfredo di Stefano, who played in five of Real's European Cup winning teams said the conditions suited Aberdeen better and added "the weather made us tense, we gave too much too soon at the start of extra time and we were surprised at the fitness of the Scots."

"Many of the players thought the opening goal was offside but I can only congratulate Aberdeen for their economical football. We matched them in midfield but lacked bite up front."

Real had no one to match Strachan and Black who combined for the opening goal. Strachan picked out the unmarked Doug Rougie with an astute corner and when the fullbacks goalbound header was deflected Black pounced to tuck the ball neatly past Agustin.

While Real's attack lacked speed and purpose Aberdeen produced a variety of exhilarating moves highlighted by the Cup winning goal.

Striker Mark McGhee drifted out to the left and his far flung swerving cross was met perfectly by the intruding Hewitt who directed his glorious, bullet-like header into the net.

Manager Alex Ferguson was understandably jubilant at the final whistle and said "we had the better individuals and were the better team collectively."

"We lost a bit of momentum after the penalty but managed to get things sorted out during the half-time interval. I think we were always more intent on winning, especially in the last ten minutes."

Much of Aberdeen's success is due to 41-year-old Ferguson, who convinced his young side not to be overawed by Real's great reputation. Watching the two teams it was hard to believe Real were playing their 11th final while Aberdeen had never been past the third round in 11 previous campaigns.

But while the Spanish had the experience, it was Aberdeen who always had the ambition.

Noah ends Wilander's winning series

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Mats Wilander of Sweden crashed to his first clay court defeat in 44 matches Friday when Frenchman Yannick Noah beat him 6-4, 6-4 in a thrilling quarter-final match at the West German Open Tennis Championships.

The defeat is a severe setback to Wilander's preparations for the defence of the French Open title later this month which he won last year as a 17-year-old.

The Swede, without ever playing badly, was outclassed by Noah, whose booming first serves found their mark time and time again.

Noah, who looked disinterested and out of touch last week in the World Team Tennis Cup in Düsseldorf and twice failed to appear for his scheduled games, bounced back to his brilliant best Friday.

He now moves into the semifinals as one of the favourites to win the title after top seed Ivan Lendl was knocked out Thursday.

He will meet either Hungary's Balasz Taroczy--Lendl's conqueror--or unseeded Eric Fromm of the U.S.

Both men demonstrated that tennis can be gripping even on slow clay courts, showing no hesitation in moving regularly to the net and continually looking for winners.

In the end it was Noah's serve and his accuracy and timing on his passing shots which unsettled the Swede.

Wilander staged something of a fight back after falling 6-4 in the first set and losing his first two serves in the second to trail 3-1.

He broke straight back to 3-2 and put Noah under pressure for the rest of the set without getting the breakthrough he really needed.

But at 5-4 Noah was not to be deprived of victory. He gritted his teeth and pulled out four big serves to win the game to love.

Hagler-Scypion fight scheduled for May 27

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (R) — Undisputed middleweight champion Marvin Hagler and fellow-American Wilfred Scypion, in defiance of both of boxing's world governing bodies, will meet in a 15-round title fight here on May 27, promoter Bob Arum announced Friday.

The announcement, ironically made in the "defiance room" at a local hotel, said the fight will be sanctioned by the newly-formed United States Boxing Association International.

"I know that both the WBC and WBA will have their guns out and they will try to interfere in any way possible," Arum told a press conference. "But I hope no one will take them seriously on this."

The WBA had originally sanctioned a 15-round title fight, but then agreed to go along with the WBC which limits title fights to 12 rounds. However, in doing so, the

WBC said it would continue to recognise Hagler if he won, but not Scypion.

Hagler in turn said he would refuse to fight unless the bout was set for 15 rounds, as originally agreed upon.

The fight was scheduled for this Friday but was postponed late on Tuesday because of an inflammation of Hagler's left knee which he sustained while running on a Cape Cod beach.

"What promised to be a great fight is now going to be a monster event," Arum said. "We're receiving ticket orders from all over the country. The extra attention and politics hasn't hurt a bit."

Asked if either the WBA or WBC had contacted him since Hagler announced Thursday he would fight without their sanction, Arum said: "I don't care if we never hear from them."

Los Angeles judge cancels Chacon-Boza-Edwards fight

LOS ANGELES (R) — A Los Angeles superior court judge has ordered a halt to Sunday's scheduled fight in Las Vegas between World Boxing Council (WBC) super-featherweight champion Bobby Chacon of the U.S. and former champion Cornelius Boza-Edwards.

The request to stop the bout came from promoter Don King, who claimed Chacon had already signed a contract with him to defend his title in June against unbeaten Hector "Macho" Camacho.

The cancelled fight, which originally was to have been Chacon's first defence of the title he won last December when he beat Rafael "Bazooka" Limon of Mexico, had previously been stripped of its title status when the WBC refused to sanction it as a championship fight because of the contract controversy.

Chacon was to have received \$410,000 for fighting Boza-Edwards, the number one contender from Uganda who now lives in Britain. King's contract calls for Chacon to earn \$210,000 against Camacho.

English League programme closes on a day of reckoning

LONDON (R) — Luton and Manchester City go into their final English first division soccer fixture on Saturday knowing the winner will take all.

After nine months and 41 fixtures, the League programme could not have produced a more thrilling climax to the cut-throat relegation battle which has raged over the last two months.

With Swansea and Football Association (F.A.) Cup finalists Brighton already condemned to the second division next season, third-from-bottom Luton travel to City, just one place above them in the table, with the winner staying up and the loser going down.

Luton manager David Pleat has preached an attack at all costs policy throughout the year, and it is unlikely he will change his strategy now.

His side has to win. Even a draw would send them down—unless Birmingham lose by four goals at Southampton in their final match, in which case they would slip into the third relegation slot.

Luton go into the clash boasting the best away goals record in the division. But their confidence has been undermined after taking just two points from their last four games.

The final day of the League programme is also a day of reckoning for second division promotion candidates Fulham and Leicester.

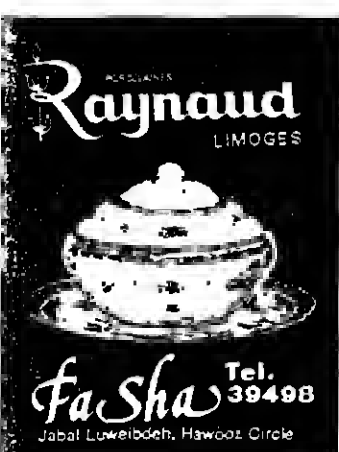
London side Fulham have, for much of the season, looked the side most likely to go up with champions Queen's Park Rangers and Wolverhampton.

But Leicester's late run has eased them level with Fulham on points and taken them into the fateful third promotion slot on goal difference.

Now Leicester are favourites to book their passage into the first division on Saturday. They take on bottom club Burnley at home, while Fulham, whose stride towards the top flight has faltered in recent weeks, travel to lowly Derby.

But with none of the second division's relegation places settled, both Burnley and Derby will be fighting to save their skins and should be no push-overs.

Bob Paisley ends his career as Liverpool's manager at Watford and will be trying to motivate the champions to end a dismal run which has produced only one win in their last seven games.



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WORLD

Latin ministers seek compromise as Nicaragua repluses rebels

PANAMA CITY (R) — In a marathon session that went into the early hours Friday morning, foreign ministers from four Latin American nations searched for ways to foster peace in war-torn Central America.

The session was the fourth round of talks between the ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, who have vowed to bring five Central American nations to the negotiating table.

Officials had expected the gathering to end Thursday night with the release of a joint communiqué.

The ministers, the so-called "Contadora group", take their name from the Panamanian resort of Contadora where they initiated their peace process last January.

The United Nations Security Council has agreed to wait until the end of the Contadora meeting before setting a date for a new public meeting on a Nicaraguan complaint of U.S. aggression.

The diplomatic efforts took place as tension mounted between Nicaragua and its southern neighbour Costa Rica.

Nicaragua routes large rebel force
MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan troops have routed a force of 750 rebels in Matagalpa Province deep inside Nicaragua after two months of heavy fighting, a Nicaraguan commander said Thursday night.

Commander Xavier Carrion told reporters that his forces killed 243 rebels, wounded 61 and seized 12 before driving the survivors back to Honduras on May 4.

Military sources said the rebel drive into Matagalpa, only 100 kilometres from Managua, was far deeper into Nicaragua than other major rebel incursions. Guerrillas fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist Sandinist government normally operate near the country's borders.

Carrion said the rebels infiltrated into Matagalpa between January and March and planned to use it as a base to raid provinces even closer to Managua. But he said their operation was a total failure.

Displaying photos of mutilated and bullet-ridden children, Carrion said the rebels inflicted most of their casualties on civilians, mainly through indiscriminate mortar attacks on civilian targets. He gave no figures.

Thais claim Vietnamese withdrawal was a hoax

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam sent 2,000 fresh troops into southern Kampuchea early this month, one day after it announced a partial troop withdrawal from the country, Thailand's security chief said Friday.

Squadron leader Prasong Soonsiri, secretary-general of the National Security Council, said the new Vietnamese troops, based in Kandal Province south of Phnom Penh, replaced soldiers Hanoi pulled out on May 2.

Western journalists were invited to Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese authorities to witness the pullout and saw about 1,500 soldiers leave the Kampuchean capital and cross the frontier to Vietnam.

Vietnam's ambassador to Phnom Penh, Ngo Diem, said at the time more than 10,000 Vietnamese troops would leave Kampuchea during the month-long withdrawal.

There are an estimated 180,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea backing up the Heng Samrin government, installed by Vietnam after its invasion of the country in December 1978.

The foreign reporters had no way of checking whether Hanoi would replace the troops it withdrew or had done so already.

an improper relationship with Mr. Ivanov.

In the other case, the government is still involved in a high court action against a newspaper which last week started publishing top secret Australian intelligence documents until stopped by an interim injunction.

The National Times newspaper said it had tens of thousands of pages of top secret documents belonging to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). ASIO gave potentially embarrassing material on leading Australians to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the paper said.

The lack of detail in the prime minister's statement Thursday and his order to Labour ministers to avoid contact with Mr. Combe, now a lobbyist and consultant, caused parliamentary debate.

Conservative opposition deputy leader Doug Anthony said Mr. Hawke's actions placed his former party colleague "under the blackest cloud imaginable."

Dissident French priest barred from St. Peter's

VATICAN CITY (R) — A French priest who accuses Pope John Paul II of heresy, apostasy and causing a schism was barred from saying a traditionalist tridentine mass in Saint Peter's Basilica Friday.

Father Georges de Nantes arrived at Saint Peter's, the Pope's own church and centre of worldwide Roman Catholicism, to say mass early Friday.

But the canons—the church officials responsible for the day-to-day running of the basilica—refused him permission. Father de Nantes' associates added.

The priest had previously announced his intention of delivering a medieval style Latin "libellum accusationis," or formal accusation of heresy, to the Pope in person.

Later a meeting between the traditionalists and Vatican officials degenerated into a shouting match and exchange of insults, Vatican sources said.

Vatican officials said only that Father de Nantes and his group had been invited to discuss their views.

Father de Nantes accuses the Pope of being "the most powerful agent of Marxist expansion in the world."

chance of travelling to Oslo to collect the Nobel Peace Prize.

Five years later he was sent into internal exile in Gorky, 400 kilometres east of Moscow, in an attempt to halt his activities as a human rights campaigner.

Dr. Sakharov's wife Yelena Bonner rejected the reasons given for barring her husband's emigration, saying that he had not had access to secrets since May 1968 and wanted only to enjoy the full rights of a Soviet citizen.

Earlier she told Western correspondents that Dr. Sakharov was willing to emigrate to the West and settle there because he was suffering mentally and physically from isolation in Gorky.

"Speculation that Moscow might relent and allow him to emigrate mounted after officials in Vienna said they were optimistic that he would be permitted to take up a visiting professorship at Vienna University."

Mrs. Bonner said her husband had not received the invitation, but she did not regard the TASS announcement as the final word on the visa question.

"There is no such thing as a complete no in this country," she said.

Customers ought to be prosecuted and fined along with those from whom they bought sexual services.

Police tended to be lenient with procurers, mistakenly believing that they could become useful leads to perpetrators of other crimes, he said.

Mr. Fernandez-Laurent said there was no reliable estimate of the cash value worldwide of trafficking in sex, but young women in the French Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique were bought for \$3,000 each for shipment to so-called "eros centres" in West Germany.

West German made about \$1,000 sale, he said.

Mr. Fernandez-Laurent said that in the Philippines women had organised themselves against sex tourists while similar movements existed in Japan and Korea.

"I recommend that the world tourism organisation, when it draws up its charter or code of conduct or ethics, include in that charter an obligation on all not to encourage prostitution," he said.

Dealing with the general problem of commercial sex, Mr. Fernandez-Laurent said it might never be eliminated but the police and courts should be much harder on pimps and procurers.

ABC said that another Bulgarian who Agca alleged was involved with him, Todor Aytayizov, had evidence that he was in a bicycle shop at a time when Agca claimed they had gone to St. Peter's square on a reconnaissance mission.

In another discrepancy, ABC said Agca claimed to have spoken with the Bulgarians in English, but his English was poor and the Bulgarians said they could not speak the language.

It said proof of a conspiracy was hard to get and the only person to support Agca's plot claim was a Bulgarian defector in Paris, Jordan Mantarov, who said he was warned French authorities of a Bulgarian plot a month before the attempt.

But ABC said U.S. intelligence sources told it Mantarov did not actually tell his story until nine months after the shooting.

China limits air travel for officials

PEKING (R) — China has cracked down on air travel by junior officials following the hijacking of one of its aircraft to South Korea last week, Chinese sources said Friday.

They said only county-level officials and above are now permitted to travel by plane under regulations introduced last Friday, a day after the hijack.

The Peking office of the national airline CAAC has introduced strict checks on passengers wishing to buy tickets, and long queues have formed as officials carefully examine identity cards of customers.

In the first official account of last week's hijacking the New China News Agency said the hijackers had all committed previous offences including theft of firearms and fraud.

It said the ringleader grabbed the plane's controls for more than an hour so that it "kept dipping and climbing alternately and rocking from side to side."

Moscow raps opera singers

MOSCOW (R) — Members of one of the Soviet Union's leading provincial opera companies have been disciplined for performing in a Russian Orthodox Church choir in their spare time, a Moscow newspaper reported Friday.

The head of the theatre had also been severely reprimanded for failing to propagate atheism amongst the performers, it added.

Campaigning Thatcherites say they scent victory

LONDON (R) — Politicians hustled from Parliament Friday to begin campaigning for Britain's general election with the Conservative government tipped to win a new mandate by a landslide.

Three opinion polls since Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced the June 9 election on Monday put the Conservatives between 12 to 21 per cent ahead of the opposition Labour Party.

One poll showed 52 per cent support for the Conservatives — which would return Mrs. Thatcher with a majority of more than 250 seats compared with 36 in the parliament that wound up Friday.

But Mrs. Thatcher, whose 1979 election victory turned out the Labour government of Prime Minister James Callaghan, is wary of being complacent.

"Opinion polls do not win elections, hard work does," she told Conservative Members of Parliament on the eve of the dissolution, adding: "don't get complacent."

Without waiting for the traditional cry "who goes home" to end Parliament, many MPs hurried away to their constituencies around the country.

At least 50 of the MPs left Parliament for the last time. Best known among those retiring was Sir Harold Wilson, 67, former Labour prime minister, who won more general elections (four) than any other prime minister since William Gladstone.

Freezing, storing human embryos okayed in U.K.

LONDON (R) — The British medical profession, which in 1978 produced the world's first test-tube baby, Friday gave doctors the go-ahead to freeze and store human embryos for up to a year.

The British Medical Association (BMA), in a report offering guidelines to doctors, also advised that embryos used for scientific observation should not be allowed to grow for more than 14 days.

The report approved most of the test-tube baby techniques being pioneered in Australia, but not yet practised in Britain.

The new guidelines are likely to be controversial. Two days ago Britain's Roman Catholic bishops condemned experiments on human embryos and the development of frozen embryo banks.

The report said observations on embryos should normally be completed within five to 10 days and always within a maximum of 14 days after fertilisation.

It said if it was shown that embryos could be frozen and thawed without damage, then they could be stored for up to 12 months.

Doctors say storing embryos could help prevent abnormal pregnancies. The embryo could be implanted in the womb at exactly the time in the woman's cycle that the egg was removed.

Meanwhile, members of Poland's award-winning "X" film unit have protested to the culture ministry over the sacking of Mr. Wajda.

In an open letter to Culture Minister Kazimierz Zygulski, made available to correspondents in Warsaw, the film workers said Mr. Wajda's dismissal contravened public opinion.

"The charge that the team was pursuing its own cultural policy was completely unreasonable in a situation where the culture and art ministry alone decided on scripts and approved completed films," the workers said.

The studio "X" workers' protest said the decision to dismiss Mr. Wajda had not been discussed with them beforehand, despite the fact that the government still talked about self-management.

Many people knew of forgery before Stern did

BONN (R) — A West German newspaper said Thursday a Stuttgart collector of Nazi memorabilia very probably wrote the purported Hitler diaries himself and sold them to Stern magazine for nine million marks (\$3.75 million).

The Daily Stuttgarter Nachrichten said it had been told by a "reliable" informant that the dealer, known both as Konrad Fischer and Doctor Kujau, had revealed 15 months ago that he was writing a biography of the Nazi dictator for Stern.

Fischer/Kujau, who is both a designer and a calligrapher, had repeatedly complained that he had to work "day and night on the project" and was totally exhausted, the newspaper said in a statement which was expanded upon in Friday's edition.

Last Friday the West German government declared the diaries "forgeries" after federal authorities had examined seven of the 62 volumes.

The newspaper said its source had given him information in a sworn statement at a Stuttgart lawyers' firm which was passed on to the city's prosecutor's office. The prosecutor's office could not be contacted Thursday due to the National Ascension Day holiday.

Sources at the newspaper were unwilling to name the lawyer's firm beyond identifying it as a "large, responsible company."

The Stuttgart daily said that according to "reliable information from his circle of friends" Fischer/Kujau had shown acquaintances a suitcase containing up to three million marks (\$1.25 million) in cash.

Cerd Heidemann, the Stern journalist who has since been sacked by the magazine for his part in

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. concerned about expulsions

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. has expressed concern to Saudi Arabia over the expulsion of five members of a private Christian group, a State Department spokesman said. Spokesman Alan Romberg said the five, including two Americans, were ordered to leave Saudi Arabia on May 9. In Manama, Bahrain, one of those expelled, American agricultural engineer Kenneth Smith said that he, along with another American, the Rev. William Antablin, two Britons and a Lebanese, had been members of a Riyadh international Christian fellowship.

Irish fire hits British helicopter

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (R) — Irish guerrillas opened fire Thursday night on a British army helicopter, hitting it several times and wounding a soldier but failing to bring it down, an army spokesman said. The provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British rule in the province, later said it had launched the attack near Crossmaglen in County Armagh. About 10 gunmen were believed to have been involved in the attack. The helicopter managed to land at a military base, the army spokesman said.

New York church revealed as brothel

NEW YORK (R) — Police said Thursday that a church which ran a religion club for parishioners encouraging "sharing and loving" was in fact a brothel. The vice squad arrested the pastor of "the church of sharing", Daniel Lander, another man described as a self-ordained minister of the church, a woman assistant and six prostitutes in an early morning raid at the church's Manhattan headquarters. Lander, 40, was charged with running a prostitution ring. District attorney Robert Morgenthau said the church had never held religious services but solicited "parishioners" to join its religion-in-action club, the "midnight interlude."

Crocodile turns up in town centre

CAIRNS, Australia (R) — A crocodile reared up from the gutter in the centre of Cairns Friday and grabbed 19-year-old Barry Robertson by the leg. Robertson, on his way home from a nightclub, managed to fight off the 1.7 metre beast with the help of a passing taxi driver. Police said his long leather cowboy boots saved him from injury. The crocodile escaped down a drain in this tropical resort town on the North Queensland coast. A police spokesman said: "We occasionally get them around the town after heavy rain but they don't normally bother you unless you frighten them."

The case of the stored excrement

GENOVA, Italy (R) — A magistrate fined a Genoese student 750,000 lire (\$500) for emptying a sack of excrement over the head of a cleaning lady while she was tidying an apartment. Andrea Vignola, who lived next door, said in his defence that he entered the apartment to determine the cause of an unbearable stench and assaulted the cleaner in a fit of rage after he discovered excrement piled in sacks. Police said they found more than 150 kilograms of excrement which had been stored in the apartment over several years by two elderly ladies after their water closet became blocked.

Green-haired girl won't pass test

NOTTINGHAM, England (R) — A schoolgirl has been banned from taking an examination because she dyed her hair with streaks of green. Jo-Anne Foote, 16, needs to pass the test to be accepted for a college course in window-dressing. But Nottingham's Valley School says no one with a punk hairstyle can sit the exam. "I refuse to change," said Jo-Anne. "I'm just a normal everyday girl who wants her hair how she likes it." Her mother Carol told reporters: "My daughter's future is threatened over a triviality."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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NO EXTRA BONUS FOR OVERTRICKS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A54
♥ 102
♦ AQJ5
♣ 83

EAST
♠ KJ103
♥ 953
♦ 1087643
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ Q7
♥ AQJ764
♦ K92
♣ A5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 1♦ 2♠
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Rubber bridge and duplicate are worlds apart. In the latter, you have to score as well or better than the other pairs who will be playing the same cards you do. In rubber bridge, making your contract is paramount.

The bidding was short and accurate. North was close to making a move over South's jump to three hearts, but caution prevailed and he was content with a simple raise to game.

West led the ten of clubs, and the catastrophe was soon over. South, an experienced,

duplicate player, won the ace of clubs and led a diamond to the jack preparatory to trying the trump finesse. He never did get to take it.

East ruffed the diamond and returned a low club. Fortunately for the defenders, West held the nine of clubs. That served as an entry to give his partner a second diamond ruff and, to rub salt in to the wound, West was able to overruff the third round of clubs with the king of trumps and give partner another diamond ruff for down two.

Very unfortunate, but only if you are playing duplicate.

The rubber bridge aficionado has no problem with the hand. He wins the ace of clubs and immediately basques out ace of hearts and another. The defenders can take a club trick and one diamond ruff in addition to the king of trumps, but that is all for the defense. Declarer will get to discard his losing spade on the fourth diamond.

At duplicate, obviously, declarer cannot afford the safe line. He would look very silly if he made ten or eleven tricks when twelve were available by simply crossing to dummy and picking up the king of trumps via a finesse. Since that is what the rest of the field would be doing, any declarer who played safe would get a terrible score.